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IRAN

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Near East & South Asia

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31 March 1992

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

U.S. Seen 'Creating' Islamic Threat To Preserve Power

NC2602220492 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 10 Feb 92 p 19

[Commentary: "The United States: Moving Toward Isolation"]

[Text] U.S. concern over the influence of the Islamic revolution in the world has increased these days, so much so that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker officially requested in his speech to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee that sufficient funds be allocated to confront the influence and export of the Islamic revolution.

Even though this request was actually a confession that past schemes have failed, it spoke of a new plot to preserve the political supremacy of the White House over the West and the world of Islam since the disintegration of the East bloc has deprived the United States of its opportunity to lead the West because of the change in criteria and motives. The United States is therefore seeking ways to intimidate the West concerning the growth of Islam and to continue its own arrogant policies.

In other words, the disintegration of the bipolar system has removed all pretext for the continued supremacy of the United States over Europe and the industrialized countries and the United States is afraid that its power will be limited to within its own borders.

The prevailing situation is weakening the White House and has even placed a question mark over the existence of NATO, so much so that many Western observers believe that NATO is finished. But the United States considers the dissolution of NATO to be to its detriment. To maintain it, it is creating enemies for the West and is portraying the growth of Islamic tendencies as a great threat. By magnifying all this, it is trying to convince everyone that past policies should continue. Not only is Islam not the West's enemy, but it is a divine blessing for the entire oppressed world today.

It is through peaceful coexistence with the world of Islam and Muslims that Europe can free itself from its current captivity. After World War II, despite Europe's industrial development, Europeans have been living under the U.S. umbrella. The cost for this has been great and the recent approaches by some European countries prove this point.

Europe today is in a situation where it can bring the United States down to its own level and confront it as an equal. Some of Europe's realistic leaders are considering this.

To safeguard its illegitimate interests in the world of Islam, the United States is trying to portray the Islamic revolution as dangerous and is trying to force the governments of Islamic countries to confront the growth of Islamic tendencies among their nations.

Despite all this, the colonialist policies of the White House have lost their luster and nations have called the bluff of the U.S. plotters. So the White House will not achieve

anything with its plots but will face basic problems, even within the United States, and will move toward isolation.

Republic Will Not Allow U.S. To Be Regional 'Policeman'

NC2602151792 Tehran ABRAR (International Supplement)
in English 13 Feb 92 p 12

[Editorial: "Gendarme of the Region"]

[Text] The negative effects of Iraq's historic mistake in attacking Kuwait and opening the way for United States aggression against the region are becoming more evident every day. These negative effects manifest themselves in increasing U.S. insolence and in covert and open interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Washington considers itself the winner of the Cold War after the collapse of the Soviet Union and discrediting of Marxism. It imagines itself as an unrivalled world power and thus tries to silence any opposition or any free voice outside its own thinking framework through political, economic, cultural and military ways.

The Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i referring to the big propaganda and political conspiracies of world arrogance against the Islamic Republic nation and system said: "Today the arrogant powers in a deviated and exaggerated way spread propaganda that the Islamic Republic is arming itself with advanced weapons and military facilities. The main aim of such propaganda is to justify their presence in the region and frighten the Islamic countries of the Persian Gulf against the supposed threat posed by the Islamic Republic. But the Islamic Republic's weapons never did not do pose the slightest danger to the countries of the Persian Gulf, in fact they are meant to defend the ideal Islamic and human values."

For 13 years Washington has directed its aggression against Iran and has always been a center of plotting and deceit against the Iranian Muslim nation. It does not want Iran, which is the biggest country in the region, to have the defense capability to protect the achievements of its revolution, i.e. freedom and independence.

No doubt the aim of the United States from continuous pressuring of Iran is to dominate the Persian Gulf and its vital resources. The oil in the Persian Gulf is the weapon that the United States wants to use for its hegemony over the future world.

The leader stressed that because Iran has the largest coastline in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf region, it cannot remain indifferent to regional security and Iran's role in it and added, "We have never wanted and do not want to be the 'gendarme' of the region... and will allow no power whether regional or other and especially the United States which is today trying to be the policeman of the region, to become the region's gendarme."

Paper Says U.S. Sees Islam as Greatest Threat*NC0103162192 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
16 Feb 92 pp 1, 16*

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafraz: "The U.S. Fear of Islam's Influence"]

[Text] Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf became geared to defeating Iran and isolating it internationally. After the war, an economic embargo emerged as the principal U.S. tactic to pressure Iran.

Maximum effort was made to stop Iran exporting the oil it wanted to and to halt the sale of strategic goods to it.

Today the embargo on the Islamic revolution is not confined to Iran's borders. Efforts are being made to stop it spreading in Africa, Central Asia, and even in Europe. For the same reason, isolating the United States and confining it to its own territory is being propounded.

The international scene is becoming one of a real confrontation between Islam and the infidels. When bipolarity prevailed, there was no mention of a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union because then the two powers concurred on all the issues, splitting their international interests and sharing freedom as the two superpowers, acting as they wished in their own spheres.

Since Islam and world apostasy will never agree, the distant prospect of something serious is clear.

U.S. strategy is plain: "Preventing Islam's supremacy among nations and in Muslim-inhabited areas." To legitimize combating such supremacy, the Americans have been bandying about the term "The Islamic bomb." The U.S. effort to prevent the supremacy of the Muslims in Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq, and so on is so obvious that it does not need to be elaborated.

Now the Muslim-inhabited republics of Central Asia have been added to this list. The real U.S. investment is in presenting different patterns to prevent the Muslims from leaning toward that of an Islamic government. These patterns are usually in two forms: The Saudi (Wahhabi) Islam and the Turkish (laicist) Islam. Saudi Islam ignores the people's role in a government, is a hereditary monarchy unattractive to newly independent states, and its petrodollars can only be a "temporary opiate."

So a laicist government based on Turkey's pattern seems more attractive, hence the U.S. President openly defining it as the exemplary pattern of an Islamic country. But this conflicts with Muslims' general leanings. Separating religion and politics and combating any religious principles in the government are the basis of the laicist system and it will not be long before this major U.S. investment in Islamic countries will become ineffective.

Naturally the Islamic countries consider the Islamic Republic of Iran as the pattern for their form of government. Conditions in the region negate many previous U.S. activities. Among the Afghan mojahedin, the U.S. investment was mostly directed to the Hekmatyar and Sayyaf

groups and to projecting them as radical and fundamentalist. Now former communists in three countries in the north of Afghanistan are opposed to fundamentalism and, since one of the main U.S. objectives is to get close to these countries, directly or by way of Pakistan, priority is being given to eliciting their friendship, even if it means preserving their so-called radical image!

In Iraq too, one year of U.S. investment, so that Iraqi officers would stage a coup, produced no result. The Iraqi people's hatred for the United States, which gave them nothing but hunger, is no less than that for Saddam, and the plan to set up a Kurdish government in Iraq will not produce any results either. Turkey will be the first to lose as it has more Kurds than any of the region's four other countries, who control some sensitive areas. It is not surprising that the United States, which for the past quarter of a century feared communism (on the Soviet pattern) infiltrating Iran and the rest of the world, is as apprehensive about Islam (on the pattern of the Islamic Republic of Iran) infiltrating Africa, Asia, and the former Soviet Union.

Iraqi Opposition Warned Not To Trust U.S. Promises*NC0803115692 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 2 Mar 92 p 2*

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States and Its Conflicting Attitude Toward Weapons of Mass Destruction"]

[Text] UN experts were recalled from Iraq following the regime's efforts to keep them from destroying its missile installations. Eight UN experts who are specialists in destroying weapons of mass destruction left Baghdad Sunday morning.

The issue of destroying Iraqi weapons of mass destruction has constantly fluctuated since the UN resolution was adopted. The Iraqi regime first blocks the UN experts' entry and inspection, then the United States issues threats, then Iraq gradually retreats from its stance and responds positively to the Security Council requests.

As for Iraq's recent conduct, the Security Council condemned it last Friday for not permitting the experts to destroy its weapons of mass destruction and then there was mention in Western political and news circles of a possible U.S. attack on the centers housing the arsenals.

What is important is that the ostensibly contradictory stages of supplying and destroying the weapons of mass destruction seem to have a common objective and direction. Western officials and the White House have admitted that the West supplied all of Iraq's means for producing weapons of mass destruction.

The pursuit of the West's illicit interests initially required that the Iraqi regime be equipped with various kinds of weapons that are now prohibited and all Western specialist forces were mobilized for this inauspicious motive. The Iraqi regime used these arms for carrying out massacres such as the sorrowful events in Halabjah.

Now that Baghdad has completed its assigned task, the powers of world arrogance, anxious over Iraq's future and the possibility of a takeover by the Muslim opposition, have embarked on destroying the weapons they themselves placed at Iraq's disposal. To attain this objective they even embarked on the collective massacre of the people of Baghdad. Part of the misfortunes that the people of Iraq are enduring today stem from this illicit policy.

The United States is not subjecting Iraq to pressure to destroy these weapons just to please the Almighty, but because it is afraid these weapons will be used against its own illicit interests.

From the U.S. point of view, Iraq is still useful because the White House feels that by preserving Saddam it can continue to dictate its colonialist policy to the wealthy littoral states of the Persian Gulf. By doing so it can salvage its bankrupt economy and also control the world's main energy supply.

The United States sells sophisticated and advanced weaponry to the countries of the Persian Gulf that are of little use to it just to keep the U.S. defense industry in business, but the warning signs of this industry's insolvency will soon be evident.

All of the above signals danger for the Iraqi combatants as well, and they should not fall into these political traps and nurture hopes of eliminating Saddam through diplomatic means. The White House is indulging in some other political games and the green light for removing Saddam is just another ploy.

The United States raises a hue and cry over Baghdad's criminal activity against the Iraqi people and then gives the Iraqi regime the go-ahead to massacre the Iraqi people.

The United States is the number one enemy of the people of Baghdad and will never support Iraqi dissidents in gaining power. It will prevent this from happening as long as it can. The Iraqi opposition should simply forge ahead, relying on God, and should not have any hopes regarding the false promises of the White House, which should be viewed as empty expedient remarks.

Nation To Host Next UNESCO Regional Session

*LD0803124192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT
6 Mar 92*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran will be host to the regional session of the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, UNESCO. The proposal for this has been mooted by Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, director general of UNESCO, in a meeting with Mr. Sadduq, the Iranian ambassador to the organization.

During the meeting, Mr. Mayor said: UNESCO has decided to hold a session on cultural and scientific cooperation between the newly independent Asian republics and states such as Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, India, Afghanistan, and China, and would like Iran, as the large neighboring country to the republics, to host the session.

Iran's ambassador to UNESCO, announcing the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to hold the session, stressed Iran's important role in the formation of the culture and civilization of those republics.

Envoy Meets With ICO's Algabid

*LD2602222492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT
26 Feb 92*

[Excerpt] Mr. Sabah Zanganeh, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador and permanent representative at the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], met and conferred with Mr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of that organization in Jeddah on Wednesday. During that meeting, Mr. Zanganeh referred to the Zionist regime's assassination of the martyr Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, the late secretary general of Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah, and termed such actions as planned state terrorism. He said those actions clearly contradict entire international norms and regulations.

Mr. Zanganeh referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation with the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union and their membership at the Economic Cooperation Organization, and he called on the ICO to play a more active role in such international cooperation. During that meeting, the ICO secretary general welcomed the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances vis-a-vis the situation of world Muslims, and he expressed hope to be able to count on our country's cooperation in all fields. He added: The ICO condemns the actions of the Zionist regime. [passage omitted discussing affairs of world Muslims]

Industry Minister Seeks UNIDO Membership

*LD0303095992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
29 Feb 92*

[Text] Mr. Domingo Siazon, the director-general of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, UNIDO, who arrived in Tehran early this morning, held his first round of talks with Mr. Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, our country's industry minister. Recognizing the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region he praised Iran's industrial ability in the industrial expansion of the countries of the region.

The industry minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran described the situation and structure of our country's industry and spoke of the growing trend in the establishment of industry, and internal and external industrial investment, as positive moves in the expansion of industry. He called on the director-general and officials of UNIDO to make arrangements for Iran to become the center of the regional programs of that organization noting the experiences and the existing industrial and technical abilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Noting the role and the situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a neighbor of the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union, the meeting expressed hope that Iran would play an active role in speeding up of those countries' membership of UNIDO.

Editorial Appraises Relations With Greece*NC2003152792 Tehran ABRAR (International Supplement) in English 5 Mar 92 p 16*

[Editorial: "A New Look At the Mediterranean"]

[Text] With the agreement between Tehran and Athens to expand bilateral and international cooperation, a new phase in Irano-Greek relations has started.

The recent trip of Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis to Tehran and the agreements reached will expand economic, trade, and industrial relations and also make it possible for greater collaboration between the two countries in international issues.

The Greek premier in his meetings with high-ranking Iranian officials expressed the EC's desire to expand cooperation with Iran. Since Greece is one of the EC members this will strengthen the possibility of expanding such cooperation through a member state.

Moreover, Iran and Greece have had ancient relations with each other, and this is a suitable ground for expanding cooperation.

From the Iranian standpoint, the opening of a Mediterranean and EC member country to its exports will increase domestic production and make access to EC technology easier.

Iran is passing through a period of reconstruction and naturally has special industrial and economic needs. Therefore expansion of contacts especially with Europe cannot be overlooked.

Also, countries that consider themselves as exclusive bridges to Iran-EC relations will be forced to review and change their policy.

Greece and the countries of northern and southern Mediterranean are new gates for Iran's entry into the two continents of Europe and Africa and provide an excellent opportunity for enhancing both political and economic cooperation.

Velayati Receives Malagasy Delegation*LD0503120692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 4 Mar 92*

[Text] Madagascar's Minister of Energy and Mines Mr. Ratafika, accompanied by the minister of commerce, the government spokesman, and deputy president of the Supreme Council of that country, in a meeting with Foreign Minister Velayati in Tehran on Wednesday afternoon, referred to the fact that his government is intent on remaining independent in the international arena and stressed the need to utilize Iran's experiences in his country's reconstruction.

Mr. Velayati said: Third World states must consolidate their independent identity through avoiding reliance on foreigners.

The Madagascar Minister of Energy and Mines, and his accompanying delegation, also met and conferred with Minister of Construction Jihad Foruzesh on Wednesday.

Spain To Extend Its Involvement in Reconstruction*LD2702104692 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 26 Feb 92*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—Spanish Secretary of State for Commerce Miguel Angel Feito here Wednesday announced his country's readiness to extend financial facilities to Iran for meeting its reconstruction efforts.

Feito, in his meeting with Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi, said Spanish firms were keen on active involvement in Iran's reconstruction efforts.

Mahlujchi for his part proposed bilateral cooperation in areas such as mining including decorative stone slabs, in steel and aluminium industries, and in joint ventures on the Qeshm Island free trade zone.

The Spanish official also had a meeting with Deputy Agriculture Minister for Plan and Budget Affairs Jalal Rasoulof this morning.

Feito declared Spain's readiness to cooperate with Iran in agro-industries including transfer of technology to manufacture agricultural machinery and aircraft used in impregnating clouds with rain.

Construction Projects Get \$300 Million From Spain*LD2702105792 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 27 Feb 92*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Promotion of Tehran-Madrid ties was discussed in the Wednesday meeting of the visiting Spanish Minister of State for Commerce Miguel Angel Feito and Deputy Construction Jihad Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani.

Feito who arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit said Spain has allocated a dlr. 300 million credit to Iran for implementation of long-term and medium-term projects.

He said the visit to Tehran of the Spanish delegation is a follow up of last October visit to Iran of Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordenez.

He voiced his country's readiness to cooperate with Iran in fishery and transfer of technology.

Iravani said the ministry is interested in cooperation with Spain in the fields of fishery and construction projects.

He added that a dlr. 75 million-contract has been signed with spanish companies for manufacture and purchase of six trawlers.

Ambassador to Chile Appointed

*LD1003124492 Tehran IRNA in English 1137 GMT
10 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA—'Abdol Qasem Delfi was appointed as Iran's extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Chile, the first since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979.

The appointment was made by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and was approved by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Delfi has previously served as Iran's Ambassador in Colombia.

Tehran severed diplomatic ties with Santiago immediately after the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution due to the dictatorial rule in Chile.

However, the two capitals resumed full diplomatic relations last April after the dictatorship was overthrown in Chile.

Tehran, Ireland Discuss Bilateral Relations

*LD0403180392 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT
3 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs David Andrews and Iran's Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh here Tuesday reviewed prospects for broadening bilateral relations within the context of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries.

Among the topics discussed was Iran-Ireland cooperation on forest management, management of pastures and food processing industries, dairy farming and fisheries.

The two officials also agreed to continue talks on Iran's purchase of meat from Ireland.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Irish Foreign Minister

*LD0403211192 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT
4 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—The formation of a joint Iran-Ireland commission on economic, industrial, scientific and cultural cooperation is a turning point in the relations between the two countries, said the Irish Minister of Foreign Affairs David Andrews in a meeting with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today.

He congratulated the president on the successful and speedy implementation of the reconstruction plans and said Ireland and other members of the European Community would be interested to have a role in reconstruction projects in Iran.

Andrews denounced the assassination of the secretary general of Lebanese Hizbollah Seyyed Abbas al-Musawi and the Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon late last month, and said "We deeply deplore this action, and have strongly protested to Israel."

Al-Musawi was martyred along with his wife, his 6-year-old son Huseyn, and several bodyguards when intruding Zionist helicopters targetted the car he was travelling near the village of Touffahta in southern Lebanon.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani appreciated Andrews's views and said that he is pleased with the progress of reconstruction projects.

"In fact the on-going projects in Iran are proceeding faster than expected thanks to the cooperation of the people," he added.

He said Iran has benefitted from the cooperation of friendly states including Ireland and some other member states of the EC in the process of post-war reconstruction, and expressed hope that the collaboration of those states with Iran would continue in the future.

The Irish minister arrived in Tehran on an official visit Monday.

Trade Discussions Held With Irish Minister

*NC0403105692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of
Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
4 Mar 92*

[Text] Construction Jihad Minister Foruzesh held talks with the Irish foreign minister in Tehran on expanding Tehran-Dublin cooperation in various fields. The two agreed that talks on buying meat from Ireland should continue.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With Ireland

*LD0403211792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Mar 92*

[Text] The second round of talks between Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews and Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati ended today with the signing of an economic, cultural, and technical memorandum of understanding.

During the meeting the Irish foreign minister, referring to the common viewpoints of Ireland and Iran regarding the Persian Gulf security, considered Iran's role as mediator in the dispute between Azarbaijan and Armenia to be a determining one.

Mr. Velayati stressed the lack of results in the talks between Arabs and the Zionist regime also referred to the dispute between the republics of Azarbaijan and Armenia and said: Ireland and other European states can cooperate in assisting the people of the two republics through Iran.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Ireland

*LD0603220792 Tehran IRNA in English 1343 GMT
6 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews signed a letter of understanding with his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati on economic cooperation before winding up a three-day visit to Tehran Thursday.

The Irish minister who was in Tehran for the first session of joint Tehran-Dublin economic commission, said before departure that the first session of the joint commission was a "success".

He added that both sides are to make full efforts towards the complete implementation of the agreements reached.

According to the document, Tehran and Dublin are to cooperate in the fields of agriculture, trade, transfer of technology, transportation and exchange of university students.

Andrews told reporters that import of meat from Ireland by Iran will be followed up in future.

Velayati, who saw off his Irish counterpart at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, said Andrews' visit to Tehran was the first since his appointment to the post and that it indicated the importance Ireland attaches to its relations with Iran.

Velayati said that the second session of the economic commission will be held in the Irish capital of Dublin and added that Andrews invited him to visit Ireland in future.

Expansion of Ties To Sudan Discussed

*LD2502143192 Tehran IRNA in English 0723 GMT
25 Feb 92*

[Text] Tehran Feb. 25, IRNA—Ways of expanding Iran-Sudan ties were discussed in a meeting between Sudanese leader General 'Umar al-Bashir and Iran's Majlis Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat in Khartoum Monday.

General Bashir lauded determination of the two Muslim countries to promote Tehran-Khartoum relations.

The Sudanese leader said that on the basis of teachings of Holy Quran the Muslims should consolidate their ranks and rise up against the enemies of Islam.

General Bashir added that participation of an Iranian Parliamentary delegation in the inauguration ceremony of the first transitional assembly of Sudan marks a "turning point" in bilateral relations.

He stressed Sudan's rightful stands vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue and other developments in the Islamic world are indicative of the firm determination of the Sudanese Government and nation to carry out Islamic rules.

The Iranian Parliamentarian said Tehran is willing to transfer her experiences to Sudan in all domains, particularly in parliamentary and legislative affairs.

Also addressing the Sudanese National Assembly, Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat stressed the need for unification of Muslim nations.

Tea Processing Plants in Kenya Planned

*LD2702121192 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT
27 Feb 92*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—The Mustazafan, Janbazan foundation (the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled War Veterans) of Iran will set up several industrial plants in Kenya.

This was announced after a meeting between the visiting Kenyan presidential envoy Gilo [name as received] and head of the foundation Mohsen RafiqDust here Wednesday.

The foundation will establish a tea processing mill and plants for sorting and packaging banana and meat.

The two sides also discussed Tehran-Nairobi trade relations.

Commentary on Turkey's Efforts To Spread 'Secularism'

*NC2702153592 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 10 Feb 92 p 19*

[Commentary: "The Ankara Rulers' Temptation"]

[Text] In an interview with the U.S. magazine TIME, Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said that Turkey wants the Muslim-inhabited republics in Central Asia to remain entirely secular. He added: The Turkic republics speak our language and we will strive to see that they retain their secular form and choose the Latin alphabet as their official alphabet.

Suleyman Demirel's remarks come at a time when Turkey has greatly increased its cultural efforts to spread secularism and irreligious sentiments in Turkey. But the more it has tried, the less it has succeeded.

Today a new arena for economic and political activities has opened up for Muslim countries in the newly-independent Muslim-inhabited republics in Central Asia. It is a fact that Central Asian Muslims were kept behind an iron curtain for decades and that the outside world was almost completely unaware of what was happening behind this curtain. But now, with the disintegration of this curtain, an arena for activities, investments, and cooperation by Islamic countries has opened up, so much so that one sometimes feels as though Islamic countries need to cooperate among themselves in order to make up for the immense losses inflicted by the communist legacy in these republics.

The Turkish Government's behavior should be assessed. Remarks by Turkish officials make one think that the Ankara rulers have been assigned a mission by the West in the Muslim-inhabited republics of Central Asia. The emphasis on propagating the rejected ideas of "secularism" in these republics—where the futile attempts by communism to keep the people away from religion did not have the smallest effect—is more like an organized political mission by Turkey than a cultural and economic effort to meet the needs of the area's people.

Today Turkey is willing to become a club in the hands of the West against the Muslim-inhabited areas of the former Soviet Union. If this is true then Turkish statesmen are to be blamed for having chosen such a wrong path. Experience shows that this weapon cannot be effective for very long in the fight against the Islamic tendencies of a nation. In order to understand this situation, the secular government in Turkey should look at what the weak communists or the corrupt Western capitalists have gained from their

long struggles against Islamic tendencies and be assured that they will not gain anything more from their efforts. The Turkish Government should reach this logical conclusion so that it will not be tempted to tread the same wrong path and repeat the mistakes of others.

Commentary on 'Contradictory' Turkish Foreign Policy

NC2802112592 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 13 Feb 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel addressed correspondents at a press conference in Washington and said:

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's influence in the Central Asian Muslim-inhabited republics has inspired apprehension in the United States and the Russia."

He also claimed: "Syria and Iran support the Kurdish Workers' Party of Turkey which carries out armed activities against the country."

These allegations are being made in the same week that the Turkish Foreign Ministry expressed appreciation for the remarks made last week by Dr. Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Iran's non-support of the Kurdish Workers' Party.

These contradictory stances are being adopted when Tehran is preparing to play host to the Turkish President for the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit. An atmosphere of understanding and peace is one of the foremost prerequisites of convening such a session.

There are numerous contradictions in Turkey's diplomacy, however, which indicate a lack of political determination and necessary motivation for a healthy development of Ankara's policy.

The Turkish Government first seeks to affirm its complete subservience to the United States in order to implement illicit U.S. interests in the region. Second, it is attempting to gain a foothold in neighboring EC countries and is trying to obtain the necessary mechanisms [preceding word in English] to achieve this.

The ECO is one mechanism that can definitely make Turkey's second objective materialize. Demirel's insistence in the United States—based on coordinated action by Ankara and Washington—for the implementation of the U.S. new world order is an indication of Ankara's efforts to attain its first objective.

Until Turkey resolves its ambivalence in its foreign policy it will be unable to attain its economic objectives.

The Turks must choose between their regional interests and blindly following U.S. policies merely in the hope of gaining entry into the EC.

Undoubtedly an independent and wise policy by Turkish leaders is required for Turkey to enjoy the economic privileges of the ECO and of good-neighborly relations with its powerful neighbors.

Ankara To Release Confiscated Ship

LD2602131592 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—Visiting Turkish Minister of State Mehmet Batalli here Tuesday said Ankara has decided to release the Iran-bound Cypriot ship, "Cape Malias," confiscated last October.

Batalli who also represents Ankara in the joint Iran-Turkey economic commission made the remark in a meeting with First Vice-President Hasan Habibi. He expressed hope that similar incidents will not recur in Tehran-Ankara relations in future.

The Turkish official expressed satisfaction with his talks with the Iranian officials and stressed that Ankara is for expansion of ties and cooperation with Iran especially in trade and economic fields.

Habibi touched on cultural, historical and geographical matters of interest between the two neighbouring countries and assured that the two nations could take effective steps for cultural and technological development as well as for stability in the region.

In another meeting with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, Batalli discussed expansion of bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil, natural gas and petrochemicals.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i also held a meeting with managing director of the Polish "Ciech" oil company, Marian Malecki, and discussed bilateral technical, economic and oil cooperation

Paper on Turkish Court's 'Bribe' Demand for Ship's Release

NC2203154692 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 15 Mar 92 p 2

[Editorial: "No Bribe, No Ship, No Cargo"]

[Text] Nearly five months after the seizure of the ship carrying Iranian commodities, a Turkish court finally authorized the confiscation of the ship and its cargo, and condemned its captain to six years of imprisonment.

The verdict of the Turkish court is in direct opposition to the views of some of high-ranking officials in the Turkish Government such as Turgut Ozal, the president, and Suleyman Demirel, the prime minister, who had earlier promised that the vessel Cape Maleas would be set free. It had even been reported in the Turkish press on February 21st, that the Turkish cabinet had voted in its latest session to release the Iranian ship.

Undoubtedly the relationship between Iran and Turkey has entered a very critical stage, and this seem to favor the American strategy of starting Cold war tension between Iran and Turkey. And their extensive propaganda on the supposed rivalry between Iran and Turkey in Central Asia and Caucasia is all part of the same strategy.

However, political observers are of the opinion that apart from the above general strategy, other factors also influenced the verdict issued by the Turkish court.

Turkish statesmen are quite aware that such a verdict is in clear violation of the international marine laws and regulations, especially in view of the fact that government authorities in Bulgaria—which was the point of departure of the ship—had announced that the vessel had been loaded in the country on the basis of agreements signed between the two countries.

What is more, the Turkish Foreign Ministry had notified the Turkish court that since Turkey was not in a state of war, the court had no right to issue a decree for the confiscation of the Iranian ship.

But apart from all such political considerations, the most important cause of the confiscation of the ship must be related to the widespread corruption and the practice of bribe in Turkish bureaucracy.

According to an informed source, after the seizure of the Iranian ship, authorities from the relevant court had contacted the Iranian Embassy in Turkey and had requested for 300,000 dollars in return for the release of the ship.

The issue had been reported to Tehran and had been discussed at the National Security Council. But President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had disagreed with the payment of the sum as he believed such an act would be a betrayal of the ties of friendship between himself and Turgut Ozal.

Consequently, the Iranian authorities had been expecting a negative response from the Turkish court, but had assumed that President Ozal and Suleyman Demirel would prevent the violation of the Iranian rights.

Under the circumstances, the suspicion is gaining ground among Iranian statesmen that bureaucratic corruption in Turkey has escalated to such high levels that even the president and the prime minister are subjugated by it. Or are we to assume that, under pressure from outside sources, Turkish authorities have preferred to let the corrupt arbiters issue their illegal verdict?

Cuba To Expand Relations

*LD2702110892 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT
26 Feb 92*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—The Iranian Minister of Heavy Industries, Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian here Wednesday reviewed developments in Eastern Europe with Cuba's Minister of Economic Cooperation Ernesto Melendez.

Nezhad-Hoseynian also briefed the Cuban official on the heavy industries in Iran, and expressed Iran's interest to exchange and expertise delegations with Cuba.

The two ministers favoured broadening of ties between their respective countries.

Diplomatic Recognition: Croatian President Sends Thanks

*LD1703132892 Tehran IRNA in English 0651 GMT
17 Mar 92*

[Text] Belgrade, March 17, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Belgrade Nasrollah Kamyab submitted a copy of the

Iranian Foreign Ministry statement on the recognition of the three former Yugoslav Republics to the Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb Monday.

Tudjman thanked Iran for the recognition of Croatia and said that this recognition was very important and a turning point for the independence of Croatia and its international recognition.

Iran is the first Islamic and non-aligned country recognizing the independence of Croatia along with Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H).

Kamyab and Tudjman also reviewed matters related to establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Croatia and expansion of bilateral economic and cultural ties.

The position of Muslims in Croatia and Yugoslav developments specially those of the republic of B-H where Muslims enjoy relative majority were also discussed in the meeting.

While in Zagreb, Kamyab also met with Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic and discussed similar issues.

"Today is an exceptionally important day for Croatian people who will never forget this initiative and pioneer move by Iran," Separovic said.

He expressed hope to visit Tehran in the near future.

UNHCR Favors Afghan Refugees in Pakistan

*LD0903213692 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT
9 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 9, IRNA—The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has budgetted dlr 4.5 for each Afghan refugee in Pakistan against only dlr 1.00 for each Afghan refugee in Iran.

Deputy director general of the aliens and immigrants department of Iran's Interior Ministry Abdolreza Haji Arab [name as received] told IRNA today that between 1983 and 1990 UNHCR allocated dlr 84,802,000 in Iran to 2,800,000 Afghan refugees whereas during the same period it spent dlr 406,513,000 for 2,300,000 Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The difference in the budget, said Haji Arab, indicates political rather than humanistic considerations in the decisions of the UNHCR.

The UNHCR began its services in Iran in 1983 with a limited program and increased its aids to the Afghan refugees to about dlr 15,976,000 in 1987, Haji Arab said.

The aids by the UNHCR, according to the Iranian official, included foodstuffs, transportation, potable water services, health and medicare, public utility buildings, education and employment.

In 1989 UNHCR's help for Afghan refugees in Iran was dlr 13,746,000, in 1990 was dlr 9,665,000 which in 1991 dropped to dlr 7,042,000, he noted.

Haji Arab stressed that despite Iran's efforts to cope with problems of Afghan refugees, which has been confirmed by international organizations, UNHCR representatives in

Iran do nothing very important in order to solve the problems and the plight of the Afghan refugees.

He expressed hope that the international organizations would consider the issue of Afghan refugees in Iran more seriously than they already have.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Assistance Offered to Arab Interparliamentary Union

*LD0503194492 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT
5 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—The Arab Interparliamentary Union can enjoy the assistance and cooperation of Iran's Majles, said Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with a parliamentary delegation headed by Jordan's 'Abdallah Akaylah here today.

Velayati recalled the remarks made by the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i during the visit Libyan Revolutionary Command Council member 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud here on Iran's support for Libya against world arrogance and said support for Muslims was a principle of Iran's foreign policy.

"Iran would not withhold any backing of Islamic states as far as possible, and the clear position of the government and people of the Islamic republic against Zionism is a pattern of its foreign policy.

The delegation comprises representatives from Arab states, Jordan, Syria, Libya, Morocco, and Palestine. It is on a mission to Asia and has so far visited China, India and Pakistan. The Arab Parliamentary Union has dispatched similar missions to Africa, Europe, and America to seek support of the international community for Libya against U.S. threats.

Velayati Receives Arab Interparliamentary Delegation

*LD0503141492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT
5 Mar 92*

[Text] An Arab Interparliamentary delegation, consisting of members of the parliaments of Jordan, Syria, Libya, Morocco, and Palestine, led by Jordanian parliamentarian Mr 'Abdallah Akayalah, met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati. As the spokesperson for the delegation, Mr. Akayalah explained the objectives of the said delegation in its visit to Tehran. He said that the Arab Interparliamentary Union has approved a resolution aimed at supporting Libya and condemning American threats against that country. To explain its viewpoints the Arab Interparliamentary Union then sent teams to the four continents of Asia, Africa, Europe, and America.

Stressing the importance of Iran's role in supporting Islamic countries he offered his appreciation for the support which the Islamic Republic of Iran has accorded to Libya. He then said that his team was sent to tour Asia; it has already visited China, India, and Pakistan.

Mr Velayati, for his part, referred to the visit of [Libyan Staff Major] Mr Jallud to Tehran and the explicit support which His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of Islamic revolution, has accorded to Libya as an Islamic country. He then said: Supporting Muslims against global arrogance is one of the principles of the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Within the interparliamentary framework you can enjoy the assistance and cooperation of the Majles.

Velayati Speaks of Islamic Government in Afghanistan

*LD0403200292 Tehran IRNA in English 1846 GMT
4 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said at a meeting of military commanders of Afghan mujahideen groups Wednesday that the primary responsibility of Iran in relation to other Muslim nations is to support them and rush them help.

He said the return of peace and stability to Afghanistan will be pending only a solidly integrated unity among the Muslim people of that country and the bringing to power of a political system ensuring the rights of ranks and file of all Afghan groups.

"Despite an acute shortage of facilities, and despite their many internal and external problems the Afghan mujahideen did not consent to compromise their Islamic goals, and now that the 13 years of their struggle is about to bear its fruits, we witness the efforts of the United States and certain other countries to prevent the coming to power of an Islamic Government in Afghanistan," said Velayati to the meeting of mujahideen commanders from all over Afghanistan.

"To neutralize the goals would be possible only by the unity of all people of Afghanistan. That has always been the rallying cry of the Islamic Republic of Iran at all seminars and meetings organized in relation to Afghanistan.

"All past history in Afghanistan, too, is evidence of the fact that everytime the people of Afghanistan acted unitedly and unanimously they managed to become the master of their fate and prevent interference by outsiders," added Velayati.

According to the Iranian Foreign Minister the significant international developments during the past year and especially the changes in the political geography of the former Soviet Union and the emerging of new independent nations makes Afghanistan more important than before.

"We feel that essentially the occasion is one to lead the resistance movement in Afghanistan to better appreciation of the present conditions, and to better programming for future activities on all areas....

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has all along emphasized on the rights of the Afghan people for self-determination... the safeguard of the territorial integrity of Afghanistan and the recognition of the rights of the people to have a government of their own.

"I hope at a near future we will witness the emerging of an Islamic, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan which has already found its true place in the community of regional countries," concluded Velayati.

Labor Minister Travels to Oman

LD2902224592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Hoseyn Kamali, the minister of labor and social affairs, left for Muscat at the head of a delegation this afternoon, at the invitation of the Omani minister of labor and vocational training. During his visit, he will be conferring with his Omani counterpart on issues of interest to both countries in the fields of technical and vocational training.

Habibi, Bahrain Minister View Regional Cooperation

LD0403171992 Tehran IRNA in English 0746 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—The Visiting Bahraini Minister of Development and Industry Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi discussed Tehran-Manama relations with first Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Tuesday.

Al-Shirawi who is also acting minister for cabinet affairs of Bahrain, said Manama was interested in establishing overall cooperation with Tehran. He also expressed hope that Iran as a powerful regional state will promote cooperation among the regional countries.

He added that regional states through utilizing experiences and facilities of Iran can launch a major Islamic common market.

Habibi said a proper regional cooperation has been launched. He added Iran's ample potentials can be put to use through cooperation of other states for the benefit of the regional people.

Based on experience, regional cooperation will not be possible in the absence of peace and security, said Habibi.

On Monday, the Bahraini minister discussed bilateral economic relations with the minister of mines and metals. He is scheduled to inspect Mobarakeh steel complex in Isfahan, Central Iran.

Joint Cooperation With Bahrain, Dubayy Discussed

NC0303161392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Iranian collaboration with Bahrain and Dubayy in the production of aluminum and alumina powder was discussed at a meeting yesterday in Tehran between Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, who is Bahrain's deputy prime minister and minister of industry and development, and Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi, Iranian minister of mines and metals.

In addition to talks on joint cooperation, setting up a factory for the production of alumina powder in Guinea-Conakry [as heard] was also discussed.

Protocol on Economic Cooperation Signed With Bahrain

LD0403205892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Iran and Bahrain signed a protocol in Esfahan today on cooperation in setting up aluminum industries on Qeshm Island. Please pay attention to a report which our colleagues have dispatched from the Esfahan center on that topic:

[Unidentified correspondent] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Bahrain signed a protocol on cooperation in the economic and industrial fields. It concerns the establishment of aluminum industries as well as joint investment in Qeshm Island.

Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, Bahrain's deputy prime minister and minister of development and industry, who is visiting our country, signed the protocol with Mr. Mahlujchi, minister of mines and metals and president of the Qeshm Free Trade Zone, at the end of his visit to the Mobarakeh Steel Complex today.

Among the articles of the protocol are studies on joint investment in the establishment of a plant to supply alumina in Qeshm, cooperation between Iran, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates in the aluminum and alumina industries, studies on joint investment in setting up a petroleum-fired coking plant in Qeshm, supply of iron ores needed by Bahrain's iron industry, and long-term cooperation in steel industries in the region. Also included is the setting up of a joint investment company to provide financial resources for the projects in Qeshm.

Bahrain's deputy prime minister and minister of development and industry left Esfahan for home this afternoon.

Talks Held on Tehran-Islamabad Relations

LD2702115992 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 27, IRNA—The outcome of the recent Tehran summit session of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Afghan crisis and Tehran-Islamabad ties were discussed by Iran's ambassador in Pakistan Javad Mansuri and Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Shahryar Khan [name as received].

Thanking Iran for hosting the summit held earlier this month with participation of eight regional countries, the Pakistani official said that the summit opened a new chapter in bilateral relations among ECO founding members and the new members.

ECO originally grouped Turkey, Pakistan and Iran and in the Tehran summit the three newly-independent republics of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan joined the organization.

Shahryar Khan expressed hope that ECO will play its due role in the economic development of the member countries with regards to their rich potentials and resources.

On the Afghan crisis, the Pakistani official reiterated the need for execution of the U.N. secretary general's five-point plan and expressed pleasure with the existence of mutual understanding between Iran and Pakistan over the issue. He added that Tehran-Islamabad cooperation in settlement of the issue will be productive for the Afghan people.

On Tehran-Islamabad ties, Shahryar Khan said implementation of agreements reached between the two countries on the sideline of the ECO summit will further upgrade the good bilateral relations.

The Iranian ambassador said that ECO is a key regional organization and the focus of international attention. ECO can become a vehicle for development and reconstruction for the member states and other regional countries.

He also hoped that Tehran-Pakistan ties as well as relations with the newly-independent Central Asian republics will be further broadened.

Velayati Receives Message From Pakistani Counterpart

*LD1603233592 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT
16 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA—Pakistan's Ambassador to Tehran Shamsad Ahmed today met with Iran's deputy foreign minister for international affairs, Manuchehr Mottaki, and submitted him a message from Pakistani Foreign Minister Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo for his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati. In their meeting the two officials also reviewed Iran-Pakistan cooperation at international forums, as well as the latest developments in Afghanistan and Kashmir.

Sources Cited on Plan To Assassinate Hizballah Leaders

*PM0303155692 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 28 Feb 92 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Hashemi-Rafsanjani Denies Sending Forces to Lebanon"]

[Text] Tehran, London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has denied that Tehran could have sent any troops to Lebanon to assist Hizballah against Israel.

Lebanon does not need our forces in the first place, Rafsanjani said at a meeting with Iranian students yesterday. "Hizballah fighters, who have received the necessary political and military training, are capable of defending themselves without us." But at the same time he added that Tehran would continue its support for those whom he described as "the combatant forces." Meanwhile, Iran has warned Hizballah about a wave of assassinations planned against 26 of its leaders and the leaders of other organizations allied with it, especially following the assassination of the party's secretary general, Shaykh 'Abbas

al-Musawi. It urged them to take the necessary security precautions. Sources close to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard yesterday revealed to SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the "Guard's surveillance" (intelligence) organ has received reports from the intelligence service of one of Iran's friendly states to the effect that al-Musawi's assassination by Israel marked the start of this assassination campaign. The sources said that these assassinations are planned to be carried out in the coming months.

The sources said that, beside Hizballah leaders, the list includes a number of leaders of the Islamic Jihad Organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (General Command), and the Revolutionary Brigades Organization. They are accused of being behind the kidnapping of the Western hostages.

The sources said that the plan to assassinate leaders of pro-Iranian revolutionary groups was prepared a few years ago, but the go-ahead for its implementation was only given after all the U.S. and British hostages were released, and despite the presence of two German hostages in Lebanon until now. The parties concerned with eliminating those responsible for the kidnapping operations told Germany that they could not delay their plans.

Meanwhile, an Iranian source has said that Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi-Lari, member of the council for protecting the constitution and head of the Iranian delegation to 'Abbas al-Musawi's funeral, has warned Hizballah leaders about the existence of a plan to eliminate them. He asked them to avoid public activities for some time.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned that Tehran has sent messages to Western capitals through friendly states, reminding them of the promises, conveyed by intermediaries to Iran, that these capitals would not attack those who took part in kidnapping the hostages if the hostages were released quickly—which is what happened at the time.

Deputy Minister on Afghan Settlement

*LD2702113592 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT
26 Feb 92*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—Any future political arrangement for Afghanistan should observe the rights of all groups in that country, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Alaeddin Borujerdi [name as received] told Afghan Shi'ite Mujahideen leaders here today.

He hailed the recent joint meeting of the Iranian and Tajikistan officials with Afghan Mujahideen, and thought that a similar meeting involving Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan would be fruitful for settling the Afghan issue.

"Such meetings could help implementation of the United Nations five-point plan on Afghanistan," he added.

It was also announced in the session that Mujahideen leaders in Northern, Western and Central Afghanistan will meet in Tehran shortly.

Iraqi Minefields Continue To Claim Lives*LD0403195892 Tehran IRNA in English 1859 GMT
4 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Hundreds of Iranian military personnel as well as a group of border inhabitants were killed or wounded over the past two years, because Iraq did not supply Iran with the maps of the minefields it laid during its war against Iran, ground forces commander Brigadier Abdollah Najafi revealed here today.

He said during the said period the ground forces swept hundreds of sq. kilometers of the Iraqi minefields and traced and neutralized millions of mines and live shells planted in or fired at the occupied areas in Southern and Western parts of Iran.

Noting that an exhibit of the various types of mines has been set up in the southwestern and northwestern areas of the country, Najafi said the Army awards ground forces personnel who trace and neutralize the Iraqi mines.

On the ground forces contribution to the reconstruction efforts, Najafi said over 20 development projects in the war-stricken and deprived areas were being implemented by the ground forces.

Besides, those personnel who are engaged in the reconstruction efforts receive special salaries and fringe benefits, he added.

Paper on Algeria's Only 'Path to Salvation'*NC0103164092 Tehran SALAM in Persian 13 Feb 92 p 16*

['Ali Mazru'i commentary: "State of Emergency!"]

[Excerpts] When the five-member ruling council illegally took over the government in Algeria with the support of the armed forces, analysts predicted that the crisis would continue and become a civil war. Events have since confirmed their predictions. [passage omitted]

Declaring a state of emergency and dissolving the FIS heightens the political crisis in Algeria and places the illegitimate ruling party and its opponents in a critical position on future decisionmaking. By adopting its stance, the ruling party has indicated that it has no legal instrument or popular base for continuing its rule, which it can only continue at gunpoint and with the support of foreign powers for so long.

In contrast, the opposition had up to a point resorted to legal and amicable tactics to attain its legitimate rights, but now that they see all the legal paths blocked they will be forced to resort to appropriate methods of defending themselves from persecution by the ruling party. It appears that they will choose "face-to-face confrontation."

In that case Algeria will witness direct clashes between the people and the Algerian armed forces, which will result in irrevocable losses for the country, and it is obvious that the blame will rest on the shoulders of the illegal ruling party.

The only path to salvation before Algeria and that which will prevent any further losses is for the rulers to bow to the people's will and convene elections, transferring power to

the rightful candidates. If not, civil war will engulf Algeria and, in view of majority support for the Islamic movement, the ruling council will eventually be toppled and will then have to answer for its illegal and antipopular actions.

Return of Planes Discussed With Kuwaiti Ambassador*LD0403092392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT
3 Mar 92*

[Text] In a meeting with the Kuwaiti ambassador to Tehran, Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati made reference to the emphasis placed previously by the high ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on arrangements to be made by Kuwait to repatriate [bazgardandan] the planes of that country. He then announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to welcome a technical delegation from the Kuwaiti Airways.

Thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran for its positions and expressing hope for expanded ties between the two countries, the Kuwaiti ambassador handed over a written message from the Kuwaiti foreign minister addressed to Foreign Minister Velayati.

Afforestation Agreement Signed With Kuwait*LD1603095292 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT
16 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA—Iran-Kuwait cooperation in the fields of afforestation and mulching was discussed by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tehran Fawzi 'Abd-al 'Aziz al-Jasim and Deputy Minister of Construction Jihad Rabi' Fallah here Sunday.

Fallah who is also head of the forests and pastures organization said Iran was ready to transfer her experience to Kuwait within the framework of joint projects and invited Kuwaiti experts to visit Iran to become acquainted with Iran's achievements in this field.

Welcoming the proposal, al-Jasim said Kuwait was interested in using the Iranian expertise in stabilizing the encroaching sands.

Kuwait's Sadeqi Discusses Cooperation*LD1803120592 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT
18 Mar 92*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 18, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador in Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi met with Kuwaiti Defence Minister and Acting Chief of the Joint Staff Shaykh 'Ali-Sabah al-Salim Tuesday.

The two sides exchanged views on Iran-Kuwait relations, the situation in the Persian Gulf region and other issues of mutual interest.

They also reiterated the need for further cooperation among the regional countries to maintain security and establish peace in the Persian Gulf.

Tehran Critical of Fahd's Consultative Council

*LD0303101592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1104 GMT
3 Mar 92*

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, 60 years after the Al Sa'ud clan took power in [Saudi] Arabia, Fahd, the king of that country, for the first time ordered the formation of a consultative council. [passage omitted]

According to political experts, who note that the king appoints all the members of the Consultative Council—and the absence of executive guarantees for its decisions—its formation is not of considerable political importance. It does not constitute an important political development.

Seventeen months ago, during the height of the oil war, King Fahd of Arabia promised his people that he would undertake profound political reform and that the country would have a parliament and constitution in the near future. Most of the countries of the southern shores of the Persian Gulf—which all have similar political systems—promised political reforms to their peoples during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Saudi Arabia is the fourth country to form such a council, after the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Oman took similar steps.

Before the oil war, the six countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] had not really experimented with the parliamentary experience. Attempts in Bahrain and Kuwait had failed. [passage omitted]

One of the most important effects of the oil war for the member countries of the GCC was the fact that, in the wake of the rapid occupation of Kuwait, the rulers of those countries realized that their link with the people is very weak. They saw that, in order to strengthen their countries in order to confront similar invasions, they would have to undertake political reform.

According to political observers, the particulars of the consultative council in Saudi Arabia do not match up to the promises made. On the whole, the formation of appointed consultative councils in the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms cannot perform an important role in the political life of those countries since they do not include the participation of the people.

Azerbaijan Border Crossings Increase

*LD2602084892 Tehran IRNA in English 0651 GMT
26 Feb 92*

[Text] Astara, Gilan Prov., Feb. 26, IRNA—The number of people shuttling between Iran and the newly-independent Republic of Azerbaijan via this border crossing since 1990 reached 114,046, Astara Governor Hassan Rezaei announced Wednesday.

Rezaei said that of the number 34,472 were Iranians who travelled to Azerbaijan territory in a radius of 45 kms from its border with Iran and 79,574 were Azerbaijani nationals who crossed into Iran.

The trips between the two countries were made possible when the consular officials of Iran and the former Soviet Union signed a cross border travel agreement on February 15, 1990, setting 11 border checkpoints for this purpose.

Every week, 400 Iranian and Azerbaijani families cross into each other's territory.

Cultural Accord Signed With Azerbaijan

*NC0303115192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
3 Mar 92*

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and Azerbaijan signed a cultural accord on broadening cooperation in the fields of culture, literature, and art. This memorandum of understanding was signed by 'Ali Muhammad Khatami-Ardakani, Iranian minister for Islamic culture and guidance, and Azerbaijani Minister of Culture Ogly [not further identified]. Iran and Azerbaijan expressed their interest in expanding relations in field of tourism and the construction of respective cultural centers in the two countries. The two sides called for exchanges of various delegations in art and culture.

Ministers Discussed Economic, Industrial Cooperation

*LD2802155192 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT
27 Feb 92*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA—Kazakh Minister of Roads and Transportation Assin Garin [name as received] held talks with Iran's Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh here today.

Ne'matzadeh expressed Iran's readiness for economic and industrial cooperation with the Kazakh republic on implementation of industrial projects for production of chemicals, textiles and clothing, construction materials, pharmaceuticals, and food as well as designing necessary machinery.

Ne'matzadeh hoped that the two sides would set up common commercial companies and launch common investments to boost trade and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

They agreed to send expert missions to each county to assess bilateral potentials in industries and exports.

Banking, Trade Ties to Turkmenia Discussed

*NC0403172592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
4 Mar 92*

[Text] Iran's Central Bank governor, who is currently in the Turkmen capital, Ashkhabad, expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to cooperate with Turkmenia in banking and commerce.

The governor, 'Adeli, held talks with Turkmen First Vice President Charyyev Atachareyevich, who stressed the importance of bilateral ties between Iran and Turkmenia, saying: Turkmenistan wants broader ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turkmenia Agrees To Form Banking Work Committee*LD0403210692 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT
4 Mar 92*

[Text] Moscow, March 4, IRNA—Vice Prime Minister of Turkmenia, Ata Charyev, in his meeting with visiting Governor of Iran's Central Bank Mohammad-Hoseyn 'Adeli, in Ashkhabad last night, said his country is keen on broadening ties with the Islamic Republic in every sphere.

The two officials agreed to form work committees during their negotiations.

Charyev and 'Adeli also reviewed topics in relation to the closure of the mouth of the Gulf of Qara Boghaz in the eastern part of the Caspian Sea in Turkmen territorial waters.

The Turkmen official said he would take every possible measure to ensure that the Gulf would be opened for navigation.

The rising water level of the Iranian part of the Caspian Sea since last year has been in part attributed to the closure of the Gulf of Qara Boghaz by the then Soviet Union.

'Adeli is visiting Ashkhabad, within the context of an Iran-Turkmen memorandum of understanding signed during the visit to Tehran last month by the Turkmenia President Safar Morad Nyazov.

Nyazov was in Tehran last month for the summit of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

'Adeli on Trade Package With Turkmenia*NC0603103492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
6 Mar 92*

[Text] Iranian businessmen and traders can now get their earnings from exports to Turkmenia as foreign exchange from the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Last night Central Bank Governor 'Adeli returned from Turkmenia and explained the outcome of his visit, saying:

According to an Iranian-Turkmen agreement, the Central Bank envisages credit of \$50 million, enabling Iranian exporters to obtain their foreign exchange earned from exports to Turkmenia directly from the Central Bank.

'Adeli told our correspondent that Turkmenia wants to purchase metal products, aluminum, copper, vehicles, foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, and heavy machinery from Iran. We can import mineral and non-metallic products, such as kaolin, potassium, sodium sulfate, and sulfur from them.

According to 'Adeli, agreement was reached on setting up a joint council for economic reforms, cooperating on customs and tariffs, establishing a joint chamber of commerce and a joint transport company, and signing a bilateral highway agreement which includes issuing permits to Iranian trucks to move in Turkmenia.

The Central Bank governor asked private and public sector businessmen to start exporting goods to Turkmenia and

the other newly independent former Soviet republics and to make use of the latest Central Bank facilities, including foreign exchange credit to Turkmenistan.

'Adeli Reports on Turkmenia, Uzbekistan Visits*LD0803210792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Excerpt] At today's Cabinet meeting, after domestic and foreign events were reviewed, Mr. 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank, presented a report on his trip to the independent Republics of Turkmenia and Uzbekistan and the agreements reached with officials of these two countries. Next, Mr. Vahaji, minister of commerce, submitted a report to the Ministers on direct-purchase goods trade fairs and said that these have so far been highly popular. In continuation of the meeting, the ministers emphasized the need to stage these kinds of trade fairs and to correct the state of distribution of goods. [passage omitted]

Iran To Participate in Kazakhstan Port Construction*LD0103181992 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Feb 92*

[Text] In a meeting today between the Kazakhstan minister of transport and communications and Road and Transport Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, it was agreed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will participate in the construction of ports in Kazakhstan. In this meeting it was also decided that an Iran-Kazakhstan joint transport committee will be established.

IRNA To Open Office in Baku*LD2702110292 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT
26 Feb 92*

[Text] Baku, Feb. 26, IRNA—Managing director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Hoseyn Nasiri Wednesday discussed the projected opening here of an IRNA office, with the prime minister of Azerbaijan republic, Hasan Gasanov.

Gasanov expressed pleasure with the project and agreed to make every necessary arrangement in order that IRNA may have an office here shortly.

Nasiri forms part of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's mission to the Caucasus to mediate an end to the clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Ties To Tajikistan*NC2802145392 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Feb 92 p 3*

[Interview with Engineer Maleki, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by unidentified RESALAT correspondent in Tehran, "last week"]

[Excerpts] [RESALAT] It has been reported that the president of Tajikistan will visit Iran soon. Has a definite date been set for the visit?

[Maleki] During Dr. Velayati's visit to Tajikistan, the president of Tajikistan, Mr. Nabyev, said his first visit abroad will be to Iran. During my visit to Tajikistan for the inauguration of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of

Iran in Dushanbe, Mr. Nabiyeu repeated his remarks and said that he is to visit Iran in the near future.

[RESALAT] The Persian language has been declared the official language and script of the Tajiks. What is the situation regarding Persian language and literature in Tajikistan?

[Maleki] The language of the people is Persian. Their way of speaking Persian is very sweet and fluent. It is what we call Dari Persian and is rendered in the Cyrillic script, which is the recognized Russian script. This was done by Lenin and Stalin to make the phonetics of all the dialects in the Soviet Union more uniform. The Republic of Tajikistan, however, plans to officially adopt the script currently used in Iran by 1994.

The people, government, and some newspapers of Tajikistan have already begun to use Persian script. The Tajiks are striving to complete the adoption of the original Persian script by the end of 1993.

Even now if you were to travel to Tajikistan you would see that the people have already begun to render verses and messages in this presently unfamiliar script. In addition, I observed that some Tajik newspapers are printing verses by his eminence the imam in Cyrillic. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] How did the Tajiks greet the Iranian delegation?

[Maleki] The people there are enamored of anything pertaining to Iran, including the culture, Islamic beliefs, and selflessness of the people of the land known to them as the Iranian plateau. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] One of the axes of immense importance to Iran and Tajikistan is economic relations. What steps have been taken in this regard and what future programs are planned?

[Maleki] The government has commenced cooperation in the field of cotton production and in other economic sectors, such as investment and the purchase of many Tajik products, but we will require the assistance of the people for this purpose. My very preliminary estimate is that Tajikistan is in a favorable position regarding the work force, subterranean resources, forests, agriculture, and infrastructural installations such as power plants, railroads, highways, and airports.

In the sectors of investment and management, economic affairs, and modern technology, however, it requires assistance. If the directors general of our country's major industries could visit there and work in these three fields, we could have some useful collaboration in the future.

[RESALAT] Of course we will encounter problems as there are no existing highways or railroad routes between Iran and Tajikistan. Do we have any short-term programs for forging such links or have any talks taken place for the use of Tajikistan's air transport facilities?

[Maleki] I observed 400-500 airplanes which belonged to the former Soviet airline Aeroflot which were standing at the airport. The Tajiks' problem is a lack of fuel to fly these

airplanes. As you mentioned, Iran and Tajikistan do not have a common border. God willing, however, our railroad will be extended by linking the Mashhad-Sarakhs railroad to (Tejan) in Turkmenistan. Until then air routes remain the best way. Our esteemed Roads and Transport Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-kia is following up this issue so that a regular air route will be set up between Iran and Dushanbe as soon as possible. God willing this will be achieved very soon.

[RESALAT] What steps have been taken regarding the purchase of cotton and aluminum from Tajikistan?

[Maleki] The Tajiks are in a very favorable position regarding the cultivation and production of cotton, producing nearly 1.2 million tons of cotton annually. This is after the destruction of the gardens and fields by the central government during the Stalin era.

We are trying to set up a cotton gin and a center to promote sales of Tajik cotton in those areas. The second is aluminum which would be advantageous for us. [sentence as published]

It is interesting that the influential head of the Tajik publication committee said to me: We have such a dire need for Iranian books and magazines that we are ready to give you cotton and aluminum in exchange for them.

[RESALAT] Do you have any further special comments?

[Maleki] In my opinion the three Persian-speaking countries of Afghanistan, Iran, and Tajikistan can, after the problems in Afghanistan have been resolved, have very close ties, and this is something to work toward.

Tajikistan is a predominantly Muslim country and desires close ties with other Islamic countries. The Tajiks asked us to assist them in acquiring membership in the United Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organization, and the Islamic Conference Organization, and we have put these actions on the agenda of our Foreign Ministry.

Joint Tajik Aviation Draft Agreement Signed

*LD1203235392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1530 GMT 12 Mar 92*

[Text] The draft of the aviation agreement between Iran and Tajikistan was signed at the end of negotiations between (Golov), head of the Tajik national aviation organization, and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran's national aviation organization. That agreement states that Iran's national aviation organization has agreed that the aircraft of Tajikistan's national aviation organization can start flights to and from Iran until the official signing of the aviation agreement between the two countries; furthermore, Tehran will be the technical landing stopover point for Tajik national aviation company flights to countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf and beyond. Iran's national aviation organization has also agreed to assess and provide for the needs of Tajikistan's aviation organization to the best of its ability in the fields of training, provision of conavigational equipment, and computers.

Cease-Fire in Karabakh To Start 'Friday,' Says Official*NC1903105492 Paris AFP in English 0940 GMT
19 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 19 (AFP)—A ceasefire between warring Azeri and Armenian factions in Nagorno-Karabakh will take effect Friday at 1200 noon Iran time (0830 GMT), a senior Iranian official said here Thursday.

"The ceasefire should be implemented in accordance with an agreement signed Sunday in Tehran between Armenia and Azerbaijan" by senior representatives from both parties, the official—who asked not to be named—told AFP.

But to take effect the draft accord must be endorsed by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and his Azerbaijani counterpart Yakub Mamedov.

The two leaders were to have met in Kiev Thursday but the encounter was called off by Armenia to protest Azerbaijan's continuing blockade of the neighboring republic.

The announcement of a possible end to the fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, a Christian Armenian enclave seeking independence from Muslim Azerbaijan, coincides with the Iranian New Year, which starts Friday at 1214 local time.

Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to the ceasefire and the lifting of trade sanctions against each other after talks here March 14 and 15 under the auspices of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

A senior Iranian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ez is currently in the Armenian capital Yerevan in a bid to secure implementation of the Tehran agreement.

He has already visited Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, and is to proceed to Nagorno-Karabakh, conditions permitting.

The agreement also calls for the exchange of prisoners between the two former Soviet republics.

Russian Ambassador to Iran Vladimir Gudev [name as received] participated in the last phase of the Tehran talks but did not sign the final document.

Velayati undertook a preliminary mediation effort between Azerbaijan and Armenia at the end of February.

ABRAR Views Policies Toward Muslim-Inhabited Republics*NC2802112792 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 17 Feb 92 p 12*

[Unattributed commentary: "The Task Ahead for National Security—Delineating the Outlook for Ties With Muslim-Inhabited Republics"]

[Text] The ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit opened in Tehran, and for the first time the leaders of the former Soviet Union's Muslim-inhabited republics attended the session. Undoubtedly the Tehran session is considered a momentous politico-economic

gathering in view of the disintegration of the Soviet Union, which caused fundamental changes in international relations.

The downfall of communism resulted in 15 independent republics breaking away from the center. Some countries consider this phenomenon the opening of a new political market and are trying to attain the longstanding regional aspirations of the West. The Westerners, meanwhile, are seeking to absorb the republics completely.

In his remarks last week, George Bush expressed the hope that the Muslim-inhabited republics would model themselves on Turkey. According to Bush, Turkey is a secular and democratic country with an economy and market extremely favored by the United States.

We should also mention the fact that Turkey is a NATO member, while Iran is not; nor is it secular or does it have any leanings toward the United States. Therefore Turkey's efforts to absorb these republics will result in the strengthening of the U.S. stance in the region. Hence the presence of these two countries in one economic organization raises some questions.

The needs of these republics are not merely economical, however. In fact, some have a stronger industrial and agricultural infrastructure than Turkey. If we add to this scenario the extensive Persian Gulf presence of the United States, it becomes apparent that Iran is the center of gravity of this political, economic, and cultural siege.

The Islamic Republic of Iran should seriously assess the situation taking shape on the international and regional levels. An ECO including the Muslim-inhabited Republics and Turkey—which is supported by the West and which is the arm that implements NATO policies in the region—may become the arena for an unrivalled Ankara.

The republics, with their heavy burden of military expenditures and economic problems, will certainly desire future membership in the Nonaligned Movement and broader relations with their Muslim nonaligned neighbors.

The tension prevailing in the international community needs to be identified and assessed in a precise manner by the active players. We would be simpleminded to content ourselves with cooperation within the ECO and relegate the ability to maneuver to others who do not have the slightest qualms about being opportunistic and implementing U.S. objectives in the region.

If the perpetuation of the ECO is important to us, then it is obviously significant to each of the members. What is currently happening on the international level will be closely connected to our national security in the near future. For this reason it can be boldly stated that the Muslim-inhabited republics will play a sensitive role as Iran's allies, or as countries affiliated to the West, in Iran's future maneuvering ability. This, of course, depends on our awareness, vigilance, and what stance we take regarding the international situation.

Ukrainian Minister Terms Visit 'Valuable'

*LD2602083692 Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT
26 Feb 92*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA—Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Konstantin Masyk wound up his visit to Tehran Wednesday morning terming its results 'valuable'.

Masyk who arrived here Saturday heading a delegation said that Tehran-Kiev relations are growing and added that during his meetings with the Iranian officials grounds for mutual economic cooperation and political relations were defined. "We are looking forward to the outcome," he said.

He was seen off at the airport by Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i.

CBI Governor Returns From Talks in Central Asia

*LD0603220292 Tehran IRNA in English 1449 GMT
6 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli wound up a three-day visit to the republics of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan and arrived home Thursday night.

Speaking upon arrival, 'Adeli said according to his talks with the Turkmen officials, a settlement account with the ceiling of Dlr. 10 million will be established to facilitate imports and exports on foreign exchange.

Both sides also agreed to set up the joint Tehran-Askhabad chamber of commerce. Iran is also to export goods including automobile, medicine, foodstuff and industrial machineries to Turkmenistan.

Tehran will also assist Askhabad in training banking, economic planning and customs experts, 'Adeli said.

While removing the problems at the "Baj Giran" customs post, in Khorasan province, Iran will further modernize the post to meet the growing demand.

'Adeli also visited Tashkent, Uzbekistan, at the invitation of President Karimov. He said the Uzbek president voiced the republic's readiness to establish serious cooperation with Iran.

Commentary Views Nation's Regional Influence

NC0503204192 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 Mar 92 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "The Opponents of Regional Security"]

[Text] The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Azerbaijan and Armenia just returned to Tehran after persuading the two countries to agree to a 72-hour cease-fire and the exchange of prisoners and dead from the battle for Nagorno-Karabakh. The visit's primary purpose was to identify the differences in viewpoints as well as assess the facts in the two warring republics.

The Iranian delegation's visit came after a prolonged conflict in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which had been festering for many months with heavy losses in life and

property for both sides. Therefore, as the first step toward mediation, it is most important that there should be a consensus on the various aspects which would become the basis for the implementation of a cease-fire. This is especially significant since even the Azerbaijani and Armenian officials—as well as those of other countries—admit that the continuation of the conflict, along with the other problems in the Caucasus, would prove extremely dangerous for regional and world security.

This is also extremely important for the Islamic Republic of Iran, a large country and neighbor which is extremely sensitive about its own borders, as well as those of the region. At the same time it appears that the United States, Russia, and Turkey do not have the slightest desire for the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic efforts to bear fruit, and are indirectly seeking to thwart its efforts.

In the same context we can mention other attempts which took place in this regard in the past few days, such as visits by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud to Azerbaijan, and Ankara's claims of support for Azerbaijan in order to achieve its designs of a Greater Turkey. These examples show the efforts by these countries to intervene in a manner which would favor only one of the conflicting sides so that the fire of the conflict continues to rage.

The above countries are, undoubtedly, extremely apprehensive of the growing regional influence and prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially if its mediation efforts were to succeed—a feat that could not be accomplished by Russia and Kazakhstan—and they will continue to hamper the Islamic Republic of Iran's friendly efforts.

Iran should therefore act with extreme discretion and perseverance, in view of the efforts of these countries, and this will eventually ensure the security of all the countries of the region.

IRNA Cites Arab Media Reactions to Begin's Death

*LD1203194292 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT
12 Mar 92*

["Begin, 50 Years of Terrorism"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Athens, March 12, IRNA—A commentary on state-run Cairo radio Wednesday condemned the head of the Zionist regime, Yitzhaq Shamir, for carrying out worse policies than his predecessor Menachem Begin who died Monday.

The radio, monitored in Athens, said Begin came to understand after the 1973 Arab-Israeli war that "land for peace" was the only way to turn wars towards peace and stability in the region. It said that among the reasons for Begin's resignation in 1983 was the invasion of Lebanon and the massacre of Palestinians in the refugee camps of Sabra and Shattila in 1982. "What is taking place under the present (Israeli) government is more than Sabra and Shattila," the commentary said, pointing to the recent killing of Hezbollah leader 'Abbas al-Musavi and his family by the Israeli Air Force inside Lebanon. It said Shamir was carrying out a policy of "violence, terror and

destruction," and was putting obstacles before the Middle East talks. Egypt, the only Arab country to have signed a peace treaty with the Zionist state, sent its ambassador to Begin's funeral. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sent a condolence message to the head of the Zionist state and to his family expressing "respects" for Begin, one of the worst enemies of Arabs and Muslims.

Meanwhile, Arab dailies Tuesday focussed on Begin's death in long reports and articles. Egyptian national daily AL-AHRAM said Begin lived a "life full of contradictions."

"If it was Begin who signed the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, it was he who invaded Lebanon in 1982 and bombarded the Iraqi nuclear reactor.

"If he had become the prime minister, it does not dismiss the fact that he formed the terrorist organisation which was responsible for the massacre of Deir Yaseen," in 1948, AL-AHRAM said.

Saudi daily ASHARQ AL-AWSAT in a report titled "Begin, 50 Years of Terrorism," published the events of his life full of terrorist acts and violence.

Begin, who died at the age of 78, was the head of the Zionist state from 1977 to 1983. He reportedly suffered from mental illness after quitting his post and lived a life of seclusion.

Palestinian daily AL-WAFD published a long report taken from news agencies, titled "Begin Was Buried Without Any Ceremonies, And Egypt Was The First Country To Express Its Grief."

Red Crescent Aid to Refugees Reviewed

LD0203164392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] During the past year [current year, ending 20 March 1992] the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society [IRCS] paid out the sum of 6 billion rials to deprived families dependent for their welfare on Iran. Also, 323,000 items of clothes, 80,000 pairs of shoes and 560 tonnes of foodstuff were distributed to families covered by the Red Crescent Society.

Mr. Parham, the secretary-general of the Islamic Republic of Iran's RCS, this morning, on the occasion of Red Crescent Week, in an interview with reporters, said in connection with measures taken to assist the earthquake victims of the northwestern regions of the country: Last week, the Ministry of Education and Training acquired four new schools in Qazvin and four more school buildings will be completed in Zanjan next week. Also, a relief base complex become functional in Rudbar several days ago and building work will soon begin on two schools, two health centers, a cultural-sports complex, three clinics and a convalescent home for the disabled.

He added: In order to assist the Muslims of south Lebanon, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent society, has dispatched 430 tonnes of foodstuff to that region. Also, in the course of the past year, some foodstuff was airlifted

to Afghanistan in 55 consignments and was distributed to famine victims. Up to now, 1,300 tonnes of foodstuff consisting of flour and potatoes was also dispatched to Nakchevan to assist people in that region.

The secretary-general of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society, continuing, said with regard to the assistance extended by the Red Crescent to Iraqi refugees: Right now there are approximately 50,000 Iraqi refugees in Iran, 30,000 of whom are being looked after in the camps set up by the Red Crescent; and three big refugee camps are being built in Esfahan and Shushtar to house the rest with assistance from the Red Cross international federation.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mohtashami, Mo'ayyeri on Peace Talks, Israel

NC2802145092 Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Feb 92 pp 2, 3

[Report from the SALAM news desk on the roundtable on "Palestine and the intifadah" held in Tehran on 3 February with the participation of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami, head of the Islamic Majlis Defense Committee; 'Alireza Mo'ayyeri, political adviser to the president; and Dr. Ahmad 'Ali Imam, vice chancellor of the Holy Koran University in Sudan]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Speaking about the leaders of Islamic countries who in the past 100 years have always acted in concurrence with the enemies of Islam, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami said: The Arab countries made numerous false promises of support to the Palestinian people and wrested their Islamic fervor from them. Because of this plot the people seemed to move away from Islamic struggle and Islam. [passage omitted on 'Ali Imam remarks]

The presidential political adviser, Mr. Mo'ayyeri, welcomed the guests to the roundtable. He termed the elimination of the Zionist base in Iran one of the gains of the revolution and said: The elimination of this base made it possible for Muslims to gain support for the Palestinian issue. He added: Islamic Iran has not wavered in its principled stand in the past 13 years. This is because we do not consider our national interests confined to one country. We will never relinquish the cause of the Palestinians and Muslims.

Referring to the United States' infiltration into the region and into Arab countries, Mo'ayyeri said: The powers of World Arrogance capitalized on this opportunity and dragged those governments—which consider their existence dependent on these powers—to the conference table. Of course such circumstances will never douse the fire of the struggles of the Palestinian people because it is blazing in their hearts.

Following Mo'ayyeri's remarks the speakers answered questions from the audience. Answering a question on how the results of the Tehran conference on Palestine were followed up, Mohtashami said: Three delegations have visited various Asian, Arab, and African countries to follow up the adopted financial, political, and economic

decisions pertaining to support of the Palestinian revolution and we hope that the Palestinian issue and intifadah will be taken seriously by other countries as well.

In response to the question: How do you assess the future of Arab-Israeli talks on Palestine, Mo'ayyeri said: The Moscow conference did not achieve anything, but the fact that Arabs sat at the negotiating table was most unpleasant. He added: It is clear that some Arab countries have expressed their willingness for covert negotiations. Even if they agree to a particular agenda it will not be practicable as the Palestinian people will not accept it, and I do not think that this would have a positive outcome.

Replying to the question of why did Syria participate in the Madrid talks and not in the Moscow talks, Mohtashami said: The problems of Muslims and of revolutionary Muslims are not resolved by the absence of Syria from Moscow. The problem began when the Arab countries trampled on the rights of a nation by attending the Madrid conference. They have trampled on the rights of all Muslims and the Palestinian people and have committed treachery against Islam.

He continued: Today some self-respecting Muslims are indignant that a Jew should come to Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and meet with the Saudi Foreign Minister and that Sa'ud Al-Faysal should officially recognize Israel in the course of these talks.

The head of the Islamic Majlis Defense Committee referred to the treachery and crimes of the Saudi regime with regard to recognition of Israel saying: On the day the heads of the Arab governments sat at the negotiating table in Madrid and held discussions with the Zionist regime it was tantamount to recognition of Israel. He added: Even if Syria does not attend the Moscow talks today, it may attend in future.

In answer to a query on whether there is a possibility that Iran may be forced to recognize Israel, Mo'ayyeri said: The Islamic revolution and our government is based on the religion of Islam and we have not confined our moral interests to our geographical boundaries. He then alluded to the Salman Rushdie issue, and added: It is possible that we may forge relations with a country with which we did not have prior relations, but it is unimaginable with the despotic Israel and we cannot even for a moment contemplate that one day we will recognize it officially.

When asked whether the issue of Jerusalem had not become a mere slogan today, Mohtashami said: Unfortunately in the Western world, and even among some Islamic countries, there are attempts to distance Muslims from destiny-making uprisings and movements by attaching various labels to them. It is unacceptable to even state that the Palestinian issue has become a mere slogan today. [passage omitted]

One of the audience members asked Mo'ayyeri how the closeness between Iran and the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf, especially with Saudi Arabia, can be justified when they are reluctant to provide financial assistance to the intifadah. He said:

If we see any benefits in our relations, we do not have to endorse all their policies. We endorse some of their policies and reject others. We consider relations with the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf, and Saudi Arabia in particular, necessary to some extent. We do not want to be deprived of attending the massive congress of the Hajj where we can discuss our problems and convey our message to the world. [passage omitted]

Spokesman on Rearmament, Nuclear Program

AU2602114092 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER
ALLGEMEINE in German 26 Feb 92 p 7

["vM." report: "Iran Wants To Push Through Hegemony"]

[Text] Paris, 25 Feb—With rearmament and nuclear weapons of its own, the Islamic Republic of Iran is trying to secure its regime and to spread its revolution. In this way Mohammad Mohaddessin [name as published], foreign policy spokesman of the Iranian resistance movement of the "People's Mojahedin," assessed the situation in an interview with this newspaper. As a representative of his organization, Mohaddessin is taking part in a session of the "National Council of (Iranian) Resistance," to which a dozen different groups belong. The subject of the deliberations is the development in Iran and the region since the end of the Gulf war. Mohaddessin had held talks in Amman, London, and Geneva before. From Paris he wanted to travel to Washington.

Since the Gulf war, Iran has noticeably increased its armament, Mohaddessin said. A considerable increase is planned in the defense budget, which amounted to \$9 billion in the past few years. Iran wants to import conventional weapons with a total value of \$13 billion from the former Soviet Union, China, and North Korea. Tehran concluded a treaty with Russia on the construction of a plant for tanks of the T-72 type. Russian mechanics are maintaining 120 Iraqi combat planes of Soviet origin that were transferred to Iran during the Gulf war. An Iranian-Soviet agreement also provides for the delivery of spare parts, he said.

Iran is to import Scud missiles from Russia and "Silk-worm" missiles from China. According to Mohaddessin, the missiles are being brought to longer ranges and the use of nuclear warheads by "Pasdaran" engineers in Bandar-e 'Abbas. German technicians also are employed here, the exiled Iranian politician claimed.

The Iranian nuclear program, which was broken off after the revolution, will be resumed. For the next three years, investments of more than \$4 billion are planned. Nuclear plants are being established in several places: nuclear research laboratories in Mo'allem Kala near Qazvin; a nuclear reactor near Esfahan, with Chinese help; an isotopic accelerator near Karaj, west of Tehran, with Russian and Chinese help; nuclear power plants near Gorgan, northeast of Tehran, with Russian help and near Bushehr, with Chinese help.

Apart from China and Russia, Pakistan and Argentina also are involved in the development of nuclear technology in

Iran, he said. However, in Western European countries, such as France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium, Iran is striving for technical facilities and uranium deliveries. Tehran affirms that it is pursuing exclusively peaceful objectives with its nuclear program. However, with the help of nuclear physicists from states of the former Soviet Union, the production of nuclear warheads of its own would be only a matter of time. According to the "People's Mojahedin" spokesman, chemical weapons already are produced now in plants near Tehran and Ahwaz.

In the opinion of the opposition, with the rearmament Iran wants to push through the Mullah regime's claim to hegemony in the Islamic world from Algeria to Indonesia. The Islamic countries are threatened by the import of fundamentalism, while terrorism emanating from Iran may become dangerous for Europe, Mohaddessin said. Germany, with its Turkish minority, is as vulnerable here as France with its large share of Algerian inhabitants. It now must be patiently explained to the Muslim people that Islam cannot be equated with fundamentalism, he said.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Denies Rajavi Attacked

*JN1803092292 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0900 GMT 18 Mar 92*

[Text] The Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, which opposes the ruling regime in Tehran, has denied an IRNA report today that the organization's leader Mas'ud Rajavi has been attacked in Iraq, where he resides.

Further Reports on Rafsanjani's Remarks to Experts

*NC0203071192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT
2 Mar 92*

[Text] During a meeting with members of the Assembly of Experts in the Presidential Office last night, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: We are determined to do our best to improve the country's infrastructure, in which we are lagging behind. The president pointed out: Trivial economic problems and high prices or the drop in the prices of some products should not dissuade us from the path we have adopted. He stressed: Undoubtedly, the path leading to the country's salvation is the path we have chosen and which all of us should defend and explain to the people.

Commenting on the country's economic problems, Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the production organs' steps and to the commencement of infrastructural activities and said: Fortunately, all the country's economic sectors are active and affairs are progressing well. Thank God, in this period we have been able to move according to plans and to continue the correct path we have chosen.

The president added: The commencement of the immense sugar beet project and the Karkheh Dam project in Khuzestan are among the large projects which will prove their valuable benefits in the future, and this is our firm decision. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We should leave the way open for the people to invest and to become active in production sectors.

The president also referred to world developments in the disintegration of communism and the independence of neighboring countries and noted: On the whole, these developments are positive.

Then Ayatollah Meshkini, head of the Assembly of Experts, referred to leadership in Islam and said: On the issue of leadership in Islam, the people and the experts play an important role because the nation has elected the experts and the experts have chosen a just jurisconsult which meets all conditions and is fit to lead the large Islamic ummah.

Thanking Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his efforts in managing the country, he said: The existence of the esteemed leader and Your Excellency are among the great, divine blessings that have been given to this nation and for which we should all be grateful.

Ayatollah Meshkini then discussed cultural and ethical issues.

Clandestine Radio Reports Antiregime Demonstrations

*NC1403214192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan
in Persian 1730 GMT 8 Mar 92*

[Station commentary: "Demonstrations Against the Clerical Regime in Tehran"]

[Text] Dear listeners, according to reports disseminated by news media, yesterday some students in Tehran were subjected to beatings by the Guards—the defenders of the reactionary regime—and were arrested and sent to prison. Even though the arrests, prosecution, and imprisonment of opponents and critics is a normal daily routine for the antihuman clerics' regime, this time the antihuman actions of the reactionary Guards did not go unanswered. The students staged a series of demonstrations protesting this approach by the regime and expressing their loathing of the officials.

Thousands of school and college students participated in these demonstrations and some of the people of Tehran also joined the demonstrators in voicing their hatred of the dictatorial regime. These demonstrations, which mostly took place in Tehran's Mirdamad Avenue, continued for a few hours. Demonstrators demanded the release of those who were arrested last Saturday and shouted slogans expressing their hatred of the clerics' regime and calling for its removal.

Similarly they raised slogans against Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The clerical regime, which cannot tolerate any cry for justice and protest by the people, ordered its Guards—the defenders of its retrogressive policies—to crush the demonstrations on Sunday and Monday and to disperse the demonstrators by various means. As a result of the savage behavior of the retrogressive Guards a number of students were injured. The reactionary Guards sealed off the scene of the demonstrations and the neighboring roads and did not hesitate to use all kinds of savage tactics against the demonstrators. On the next day they continued policing the area and checking pedestrians.

Of course there are no details on the number of those arrested or injured. On the basis of reports, however, these protests have spilled over to other universities and cities and antiregime demonstrations were staged in some parts of the country.

The demonstrations by thousands of people in Tehran are significant in the following respects:

First, the demonstrations were staged at a time when the clerical regime is continuing its infernal and despotic control and exerting heavy pressure on the masses, the students in particular. Staging demonstrations in such circumstances indicates the regime's extreme pressure and the fact that the youth and masses have reached the end of their endurance. The demonstrations are a manifestation of the spirit of resistance as the people act despite all the dangerous consequences. Staging such demonstrations—when the regime's propaganda apparatus is boasting of the country's multifarious successes in all fields and projecting the people as living under the clerical regime in extreme comfort, a model for other countries—is in itself a tangible refutation of all the pompous exaggeration by the clerical regime's propaganda machinery, which exposes and disgraces the regime's antidemocratic actions more than ever before.

The above demonstrations and the proliferation of protests are evidence of the indisputable fact that proves to the regime that despite its acts of pressure, repression, torture, imprisonment, and suffocation it cannot stem the tide of the people's discontent or strangle their cries. The people cannot be forced to bow to the demands of the regime without uttering a sound.

This path of resistance can succeed in preventing the regime from perpetrating its boundless crimes and make it retreat and agree to accept the demands of the students and people. Realize that the regime intends to use intimidation and repression, threats and force, and even endanger the lives and property of the people to stop them from resisting and strangle their cries. It will then project the resulting silence to world opinion as the people's concurrence with the regime. We will then clearly perceive the extent of the importance of such demonstrations and acts of protest and their efficacy in the struggle against the dictatorship and rule by the clerics.

In view of the above, we hope and even expect that these protest demonstrations will be the forerunner of many similar demonstrations and displays of the people's resistance, and a precursor to protest uprisings in other Iranian cities. Such an exhibition of collective resistance—which indicates a cry against injustice and an expression of the people's abhorrence and loathing—can expose the true nature of this regime to the world, so that ultimately the people of our country will attain their longstanding aspirations. We hope to see that day.

Mohammadi-Reyshahri Discusses Factions, Elections

NC0103174992 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Feb 92 p 6

[Report on a speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemiin Mohammadi-Reyshahri on the anniversary of the Karbala-4 and -5 operations in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] In part of his speech, Mohammadi-Reyshahri said: On the international level we see how the wave of fundamental inclinations toward Islam and Islamic tendencies is growing.

As far as the current situation in the Islamic Republic, the question that rises is: What are our duties toward Islam? [passage omitted]

In answer to this question we should say that first and foremost we need knowledge and insight and a full understanding of the great responsibility that we bear.

We all need to know our divine duties at the current sensitive juncture. [passage omitted]

The only threat against our Islamic Revolution comes from within.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union was a knell for U.S. imperialism, which will face a similar fate sooner or later. The United States and the Soviet Union were our most powerful enemies. After 13 years, Islam has had such a profound impact on the world leading to the disintegration of the white and red palaces. It is only natural for our lesser enemies to have been destroyed to such an extent that they feel weak in front of the rageful waves of the revolution today.

Since the rule of Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, history has recorded no other rule with an Islamic character and of an Islamic nature other than the Islamic Republic. We should never think that merely because we have a leader we are immune to dangers. We know that when the messenger of God, peace be upon him and his scion, or when Imam 'Ali and Imam Hasan, peace be upon them, led the society, Muslims were defeated from within. Our final victory will depend on our alertness, our understanding of conditions, our obedience to the leader, and our attentiveness in defending our Islamic system.

We are in the wake of the Majlis elections and the world is closely following developments of our Islamic Revolution. Muslim nations have resorted to anti-colonialist struggles thanks to our revolution. But again questions arise that call for answers.

Some ask if it would be better if the two existing factions among the clergymen merge and become one. Is it not better for the problem of two views, especially on the issue of elections, to be solved? If two factions exist in the country, should the people endorse both factions?

The point that should be made before answering these questions is that the leadership's views and directives should be taken into consideration because the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution, as the guardian of the cause of the Muslims, is steering the ship of the revolution to the shores of honor, freedom, and grandeur.

During the last meetings I held with his eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, I asked him about these questions. That great man regarded the existence of two factions as advisable.

The esteemed leader has repeatedly discussed this issue and is constantly and carefully following the issue.

The answer to the second question is what his eminence the imam stated: The people should support both factions as long as these two factions move within the framework of the lofty aspirations and objectives of the Islamic Revolution. In other words, the people should support the two factions as long as they move within the imam's line, obey the leader, and follow the path of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Dear brothers and sisters: You should fight your personal passions with the same fervor that you did not fear Saddam, and in the same way that you struggle with the United States and say death to America and struggle with Israel and say death to Israel. Know that there is no enemy more dangerous and more close to you than the love of passion and that in order to achieve the lofty objectives of the revolution, to preserve its gains, and to continue and protract it, we should first and foremost defeat this dangerous enemy; that is, the love of passion.

Press Comment on 10 Apr Majles Elections

*LD1203103392 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT
11 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA—As candidates started signing up for the fourth round of the Majlis elections Wednesday, the press also carried editorials on the subject stressing the significance of the event which is scheduled to take place on April 10.

In a commentary on the topic the Persian Daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said:

"The Majlis is the home of the nation, and as such plays a key role in determining the future path of the country. The peculiar status of the Islamic Republic causes the people to act responsibly at the task of electing deputies, and consult reliable people before they decide their ballots into the ballot boxes so that in the option of each and every person 'the best qualified' of all will have been elected.

"Throughout his lifetime Imam Khomeyni called on the people to elect the best of the candidates, everyone remembering his statement that 'the Majlis is the essence of the nation'.

"That appropriate and comprehensive definition makes us all the more responsible in our election of the Majlis deputies. Why? Because we should seek to elect a group of people who will be the essence of the virtuous qualities of the nation, and so that they will deserve their being described 'the representatives of the nation.' That is they should have the outstanding character of the nation.

"Still it seems that before the time for elections it is the candidates themselves who will have to refer to their own conscience as the eventual judge who will decide whether or not they qualify as candidates.

"Possibly there are people who think of themselves as qualifying for the elections, but they will do better not to think of their own judgments as the final verdict on their qualification, and instead consult with normally reliable

and trusted figures if they share his opinion with him, or if they would be better advised to continue serving in the office as they are serving. The personalities whose opinions they will solicit might believe that they would do better to forego their candidacy in the interest of themselves and of the country.

"The job of being a Majlis deputy is not such that should be allowed to tempt some people. The deputyship of the Majlis suits the person who can appreciate the depth of the problems, who can stand with all his might against the inroads of our enemies and against their publicity campaigns against Islam, and who can boldly offer his opinions at the most crucial junctures of history.

"The deputyship of the Majlis rightly suits the person who has already fully appreciated the revolution and all its qualities, who appreciates the people and who knows how best to serve them..."

The Persian daily ABRAR said on the same topic in its editorial Wednesday :

"Obviously those who will volunteer will be those who will find in themselves the qualification set forth in the elections law. But beyond the legal requisites for qualifying as a Majlis candidate every aspiring candidate should refer to his own conscience and should think about the responsibility that is going to be entrusted to him upon the verdict of the people, and judge for himself, with good will, if he is capable of serving the people at such forums as the Majlis.

"This self-reflection and this seeing of the inner self in light of what may be entrusted to him by the people has no bearing upon specific personal or partisan tastes. That is an ethical and conscience related topic, and a duty towards the nation.

"Those who have the inherent qualities for representation of the people as well as the qualification set forth in the law must participate (as a candidate) in the elections or else they will be responsible for their default towards god and the people..."

Over 2,000 Candidates Register for Majles Election

*LD1603142892 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT
16 Mar 92*

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA—Over 2,000 candidates have registered with the interior ministry to run in the elections for the fourth term of the Majles, scheduled for April 10, it was announced here Monday.

Out of the figure, who have registered in the past five days, 26 are women candidates of whom two have doctorate degrees and the rest either master of arts or bachelor degrees. There are also eight candidates from among religious minorities.

In the previous Majls elections, held every four years, a total of 2,000 candidates had enrolled. The number of the candidates is expected to go higher by the end of tuesday which is the deadline set by the ministry.

Paper Denounces Electioneering Using Public Resources

NC0103111492 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian
13 Feb 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Helicopters for Political Electioneering"]

[Text] On 11 February we witnessed a massive turnout of millions of Iran's heroic and martyr-nurturing ummah display the power of Islam's unified strength and allegiance to the late imam's hopes and thoughts.

The slogans honored the revolution's lofty values, the defense of the sanctity of the martyrs' blood, and all other Islamic ideals and tenets. The Tehran Militant Clergy disseminated propaganda on the great leader's words, highlighting election material, from Voice and Vision helicopters.

This action can be assessed as follows:

1. Election propaganda designed to help the people perform their political-religious duties and to invite them to vote is commendable, but would it not have been better if the material had been signed by the Ten Days of Dawn Celebration Headquarters? The material should not have been biased and signed by one particular group, giving the impression that as the Islamic ummah go to the polls in united ranks unaffiliated with any faction or line, the Tehran Militant Clergy has grabbed a golden opportunity for directing public opinion, especially since there is not much time left before the elections. Of course this faction will have drawn up long lists of Tehran candidates and hundreds of other lists for those in the towns and villages (indirectly). [as published]

It would have been better and more pleasant had such propaganda been kept for a more opportune or appropriate moment.

2. The legally-questionable use of government transport and Muslim's public funds by a political faction, the Militant Clergy, for propaganda purposes, needs further discussion, but allocating Voice and Vision helicopters for a single group or its officials' propaganda purposes is wrong.

This finds the people asking: Why are public facilities placed at the disposal of one particular group? This creates questions, deliberately or inadvertently, as to whether the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the Militant Clergy by placing its resources at its disposal.

With only two months left to the elections the faction will have access to the propaganda machine of this massive forum with numerous viewers. We will soon see the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran become a platform for this faction's extensive propaganda.

The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's esteemed officials would do well to remain politically neutral and not find themselves used by one particular faction.

Apart from these complaints, those who seek the seats from which to formulate laws for the oppressed and the barefoot are already disregarding the laws and violating them. Woe betide the country, with all its problems and difficulties, if, in the making of laws to govern it, it should become the stomping ground for such a faction!

Qasemlu Congress Issues Resolutions

NC2602185892 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan
in Persian 1730 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] Dear listeners, the Ninth Congress of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan [DPIK], known as the Qasemlu Congress, which was held between 21 and 26 December 1991, unanimously approved the following resolutions:

Cooperation with the opposition: The congress advises that cooperation and exchange of views with democratic parties and organizations be further intensified and that serious efforts be made to form a progressive democratic front. In relation with this, the congress calls for special attention to be paid to cooperation with the parties, organizations, and political personalities of the oppressed Iranian peoples.

Activities abroad: Having contacts with parties, organizations, personalities, and political forums abroad is one of the duties of every serious and responsible political party. On this basis, it is necessary for the DPIK to expand its efforts in this field and to pay more attention to activities abroad. In relation with this, attracting the attention and support of world public opinion and of international forums for the Kurdish problem enjoys a special place. The congress asks the party's new leadership to increase its activities toward this end and to carry out the necessary cooperation with the other political forces within the Kurdish movement to achieve this.

Turkey's new policy: The Ninth Congress of the DPIK is happy that after nearly 70 years of denial of the existence of Kurds in Turkey, now, in view of world developments, the Turkish leaders confess that there are at least 12 million Kurds in Turkey and that they are taking steps to ensure the cultural rights of the Kurdish brethren in Turkey. While welcoming this great change in the Turkish Government's policy, the congress hopes that this process will continue and that the Kurdish people in Turkey's Kurdistan will gain their national and just rights. Also, in relation with this, the congress hopes that the political organizations within the Kurdish movement in Turkey will seize this favorable opportunity to make effective and considered efforts to achieve the rights of the Kurds in that country.

Austria's adventurous policy: Two and a half years after the dastardly assassination of our party's leader Dr. 'Abdolrahman Qasemlu, and of Comrade 'Abdollah Qaderi, the party's representative in Europe by mercenaries of Khomeyni's regime, the Austrian Government has not yet allowed the true perpetrators of this dreadful crime to be identified to the world as they should be. The Ninth Congress of the DPIK, the Qasemlu Congress, condemns the Austrian Government's speculative policy

and calls on all humanitarian forums and circles to exert more pressures on the Austrian Government so that the terrorists of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be clearly identified to the world and so that the true perpetrators of this crime, who are none other than the leaders of the clerical regime, will be revealed.

The international conference for solving the Kurdish problem: For a long time the DPIK called on world organizations, circles, and forums to include the Kurdish problem on their agenda if a conference on establishing peace in the Middle East was to be held. Now that the Middle East peace conference has been devoted solely to solving differences between the Arabs and Israel, the congress calls on the United Nations to convene another conference to solve the Kurdish problem. Naturally in addition to UN representatives, this conference should also include representatives of the Kurdish Liberation Movement in all parts of Kurdistan, as well as representatives of all the countries among which Kurdistan has been divided.

Democratization: The process of democratization that has spread to a large part of the world's countries so far and has brought about fundamental changes, particularly in the former Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe, is among the world's most important phenomena today. While expressing support for this worldwide process, the congress hopes that the democratization movement will expand more and more each day, especially in the Middle East, and will free the world once and for all from oppression, suppression, dictatorship, and arbitrariness.

Human rights: Despite the approval of the World Declaration for Human Rights and the fact that it was signed by a majority of UN members, human rights are being seriously violated in many countries. Dictatorships are hiding behind the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries and are trampling on the human rights of their compatriots with impunity. While condemning this inhuman policy, the congress wants international circles and forums, first and foremost the United Nations, to show sensitivity to the violation of human rights in dictatorial countries and to resort to international intervention to prevent the arbitrariness of dictatorial regimes.

The nationalism problem: The Ninth Congress of the DPIK is happy to see that the true significance and value of the nationalism problem has been revealed in the world, especially in former socialist countries. The fact that nations are declaring independence or are reuniting following dismemberment that resulted from foreign intervention is evidence of this reality. The congress expresses support for this international process and hopes that soon it will grow and evolve in the Middle East, too, and will help the oppressed peoples in this area to achieve their rights and freedoms.

The Palestine problem: The Arab-Israeli conflict, which has remained unsolved for half a century, has sparked off four big wars in the region so far and has repeatedly threatened world peace. We are happy that the belligerent

sides have finally consented to peacefully solve their conflicts through negotiations. The congress welcomes a peaceful solution to this problem and hopes that the peace talks will lead to the final settlement of Arab-Israeli conflicts and will ensure the just rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. In relation with this, the congress considers Israel's obstinate policy flagrantly violating UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 383 as obstacles to peace.

Weapons of mass destruction: The Ninth Congress supports steps taken to reduce medium-range nuclear weapons and considers the pacts between the United States and the former Soviet Union as positive and useful phenomena. In relation with this, the congress calls on the world to increase efforts to removal all types of weapons of mass destruction and to thus reduce the threat of a human tragedy for mankind.

Apartheid: The policy of racism or apartheid that was implemented for decades in some African countries was a scourge on the society. We are happy that the bases of this inhuman policy have weakened and that fundamental changes have taken place in the policy of the white population in South Africa after the liberation of Zimbabwe and Namibia, which has paved the way for ending apartheid rule once and for all. The congress hopes that this process will continue and that in the near future the scourge of racism will be erased from the world.

The new world order: The democratization process in the world, the termination of the cold war, and finally, changes in socialist countries have greatly eased the world's mind as far as sparking off a destructive nuclear war or a great conflict between governments are concerned. While expressing its satisfaction with this phenomenon, the congress hopes that in the new world order all people will enjoy their rights and freedoms and that relations between governments will be regulated in such a way as to prevent regional and international conflicts from reaching a boiling point that threatens mankind with mass murder, destruction, and annihilation.

IKRC Officials on Domestic, Foreign Activities

LD0403223292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the founding of the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee [komiteh-e emdad-e Imam Khomeyni] [IKRC], the members of the Central Council of the committee today described its activities for the current year [ends 20 March 1992], its future program concerning services offered to the deprived, increases in the Shahid Raja'i pension scheme, fund-raising activities, and activities abroad.

According to our reporter, Asgar-Awladi, representative of the supreme jurisconsult to the IKRC said that IKRC activities of the past and current year had been positive-. [passage omitted]

Mr. Shafiq, another representative of the supreme jurisconsult to the IKRC said: At present, over 2 million of

society's needy are under the umbrella of the IKRC. Regarding financial assistance to the deprived, he said: So far over 2 billion rials worth of self-sufficiency loans have been allocated to needy individuals and the sum of 4 billion rials has been collected through people's charitable donations. [passage omitted]

Mr. Heydari, member of the IKRC Central Council commented on the activities of the IKRC abroad. He said: In addition to assistance given on special occasions to needy people in the poor parts of the world, 40,000 Lebanese are currently being assisted by the IKRC.

Government's Conflicting Messages to Society Viewed

NC0503192192 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 2 Mar 92 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Fallout From Differences Among Government Organizations on Our Society"]

[Text] The decisions and actions taken at the government and managerial levels to accomplish our plans and objectives should naturally be endowed with a strength and firmness stemming from expertise, which is a necessary prerequisite for all government operations. In this way they may obtain positive feedback from various levels of society which will be, understandably, quite tangible.

The performance of the various government institutes and organizations has an effect on society, or in other words, the strength and weakness of every organization reflects on their executive departments in one way or another. Thus

officials cannot be immune from the repercussions and side effects of their conduct and performance.

Regardless of which of the two organizations is right, the difference between the Central Bank and Tehran municipality is one case which has left an unpleasant mark on our society. Undoubtedly the conclusion drawn by the various strata on such conflicts will certainly not be to the advantage of the officials and indicates a sort of erratic, incohesive chaos on the managerial level.

Such a judgment and concomitant feelings do not benefit a country which has put the difficult stage of imposed war behind it and is in the midst of mobilizing all its resources and capabilities for reconstruction and laying new foundations. At the same time the country is grappling with the conspiracies and ploys of the powers of world arrogance and such sentiments will not smooth out the difficulties in its path.

Is it not preferable to avoid such unpleasant fallout from differences in society which pollute the general atmosphere in the country by arousing false anxieties and needless indignation, creating an atmosphere conducive to the designs of opportunists and crooked elements? If the cabinet and decision making powers discuss and assess such matters in a principled manner—taking into account all aspects including the laws and regulations of the country—and our superiors arrive at a joint conclusion, it would benefit everyone and other internal matters would resolve themselves. Thus they should refrain from dragging such matters before the public, which will undoubtedly reflect on the officials themselves.

Petroleum Minister Comments on Drilling Industry

NC2702153492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] The nation's 40th drilling installation, in Darkhovin near Khorramshahr, became operational yesterday through the efforts of experts from the National Drilling Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran. More than 15 million rials were allocated for the installation of this equipment, which drills hard earth layers up to 9,000 meters.

Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh was at the opening ceremony and said that drilling is one of the country's infrastructure industries. Working economically and making better use of potential and manpower are among the National Drilling Company's objectives in this field, he added. He said that 1,460 billion rials will be invested in the drilling field in the coming year [beginning 21 March 1992], of which 900 billion rials will be invested in oil, 260 billion rials in gas, and 300 billion rials in petrochemistry.

The managing director of the National Drilling Company also tendered a report on the company's activities, saying that 23 drilling installations have become operational in a one-year period. The sinking of 220,000 meters of wells this year alone shows, he added, the significance of this technology. This year, 70 wells have been drilled, he continued, adding: This is a spectacular figure when we take into consideration the fact that 320 wells have been drilled since the company was established.

Nonoil Exports Show 102-Percent Increase

LD0103182992 Tehran IRNA in English 1436 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA—Iran's non-oil exports in the ten months up to January 20 totalled rials 142.2 billion, weighing 684 tons, according to a customs report here Saturday.

"The figure showed an increase of 102.3 percent in terms of value and 11.6 percent in terms of weight compared to the corresponding period last year," the report said.

The customs office of Bandar Abbas, had the lion's share in handling the exports followed by the customs of Imam Khomeyni Port, Bushehr and Julfa, it said.

Imports over the same period rose by 9.14 percent in terms of weight and 35 percent in terms of value compared to the year before.

In the said ten months, it said, 1.2 million passengers including 840,000 Iranian nationals arrived in the country and 1.2 million others among them 888,000 Iranians left the country by land, air and sea.

The number of vehicles arriving in or leaving the country between March 20, 1991 and January 20, 1992 stood at 6,895 (including 2,045 buses) and 6,084 (2,229 buses) respectively, the customs report concluded.

High Investments Bring Modernization to Oil Industry

LD0403220492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The 40th oil excavating machine, belonging to the National Iranian Drilling Company, was put into operation by Iranian experts in Darkhovyn region, near Khorramshahr, last week.

The excavation would save one million dollars of foreign currency annually. The drill, whose installation and operation took 15 million dollars, is able to dig into the hard layers of the ground up to 9,000 meters deep for oil excavation.

Iranian Oil Minister, Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i, attending the ceremony for the operation of the system, pointed to the infrastructural importance of the drilling industry in the world.

Elaborating on the policies pursued by the Iranian Oil Ministry in this regard, Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i said: New year's purposes of the Iranian National Oil Drilling Company is to economize and make better use of the equipment as well as training human work force specialized in this field.

According to the Oil Minister, Aqazadeh-Kho'i, in this regard the government will make investments to the tune of 1,460 billion rials, plus four billion dollars, next year.

He commented that the Iranian oil industry has allocated the highest amount of investments to itself.

Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i further said the oil industry of the country is witnessing great change now, and we are ready to transfer our technology to other countries.

It is to be noted that in the past one year the employees and experts of the Iranian National Drilling Company dug 70 oil and gas wells.

According to the managing director of the company expansion and progress of the excavation in Iran after the victory of the Islamic revolution have brought about the saving of foreign currency to the amount of half a billion dollars annually.

Report on Production at Petrochemical Complex

LD1003212992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Report by Central News Unit correspondent from Bushehr]

[Text] Thanks to the efforts by the personnel of Khark Island Petrochemical Complex, 289,221 tons of propane and butane gases, benzene, and sulphur were produced in the past 10 months which compared with last year's production at the complex shows a growth of 57 percent. An official from the Complex announced this news in an interview, adding: In the said period, 47,000 tons of propane, 42,000 tons of butane, 86,221 tons of benzene, and 114,000 tons of sulphur were produced at Khark Petrochemical Complex—the highest quantities produced

by the Complex since the victory of the Islamic Revolution. He added: Since the start of the activation and the production growth in this industrial plant, so far three consignments of propane gases weighing 24,000 tons and nine consignments of sulphur weighing 110,000 tons have been exported. In addition 70,000 tons of liquid gas too, has been placed at the disposal of Iran's National Liquid Gas Company [title as heard] for the purpose of home consumption. The official added: Khark Petrochemical Complex requires 150 million cubic feet of gases containing hydrogen and sulphide on a daily basis, which are provided from the region's continental shelf wells, in the process of crude oil production.

Petrochemical Company Output, Exports Up

LD1403114592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The National [Iranian] Petrochemical Company products during the year 1370 [21 March 1991 to 20 March 1992] reached 4.3 million tonnes which shows a 44 percent increase in comparison with figures for the year 1369. Petrochemical products during that year [1369—21 March 1990 - 20 March 1991] amounted to around 3 million tonnes.

Those products comprised 1.2 million tonnes of chemical fertilizers, including 860,000 tonnes of nitrogen based fertilizers and 350,000 tonnes of phosphate based fertilizers.

The total international value of the Iranian Petrochemical Company products amounted to around \$600 million during the year 1370.

Ten petrochemical projects were under implementation during the first five-year plan for development of petrochemical industries. The most significant of those petrochemical projects were those at the Imam [Khomeyni] Port, Arak, Isfahan, Tabriz, and the Khorasan Fertilizer Company.[passage omitted listing other projects]

During the year 1370, the National Petrochemical Company exports amounted to 970,000 tonnes to the value of \$100 million. Those figures show an increase of 357,000 tonnes, to the value of \$35 million, which amounts to a 172 percent increase in terms of quantity and 186 percent in terms of value in comparison with similar figures for the year before.

Ministers Discuss Production of Alumina Powder

LD0303191692 Tehran IRNA in English 1121 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi called for Iran, Dubai and Bahrain cooperation in production of alumina powder to meet the regional demand.

Mahlujchi made the remark in a meeting with the visiting Bahraini Minister of Development and Industry and acting Minister for Cabinet Affairs Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi here Monday afternoon. The proposal was made in light of the three countries rich resources.

The two sides also discussed establishment of a factory for production of alumina powder in Conakry, Guinea, through tripartite cooperation of the said countries.

Iran is currently working on bauxite mines in Guinea which possess one-third of the world reserves of high quality.

The two officials also reached agreement in principle for the purchase of Iran's iron ore by Bahrain and the latter's export of 1.5 million tons of iron pellets to Iran annually.

Mahlujchi and al-Shirawi also discussed setting up of an exhibition of mineral and decorative stones in Bahrain as well as the establishment of a plants for manufacturing car spare parts in Qeshm Island, a free trade zone in Southern Iran.

The two sides agreed with the dispatch of an Iranian expert delegation to Bahrain to explore grounds for further expansion of bilateral economic relations.

Al-Shirawi is due to inspect Mobarakeh steel complex in Isfahan and hold talks with a number of ranking officials.

Work on Karkheh River Dam Begins; Details

LD0403201292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The Islamic Republic of Iran has begun work on a project to construct one of the world's biggest dams. The dam, which will be the country's biggest, is being constructed on the Karkheh River.

Energy Minister Zanganeh, in an interview with our correspondent today, explained technical details and characteristics of the dam. He said the length of the dam's arch will be over three kilometers; its earth-filled base will cover 33 million square metres; its height will be 127 meters; its maximum water storage capacity, at the highest level of flooding, will be more than nine billion cubic meters; its optimum volume will be 5,013 million cubic meters; and the area of the dam's lake will be 200 square kilometers. [passage omitted] He also said: We envisage that the sum of 400 billion rials will be spent on the dam's construction. [passage omitted]

Gas Pipeline Work to Mountainous Areas To Begin

LD0303051592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] The executive work on the extension of gas to Damavand, Firuzkuh, and Rudehen began in the presence of Oil Minister Aqazadeh and officials from Iran's National Gas Company in Damvand on Saturday evening [29 February].

In an interview with our correspondent, Mr. Aqazadeh put the figure of necessary expenditure involved in the extension of gas to the mountainous towns and cold regions of Damavand, Firuzkuh, and Rudehen at 30 billion rials, and said that the first phase of the works will begin in 1371 [21 March 92-93] with the extension of gas from Avonkay to Damavand, Firuzkuh, and Rudehan regions, and it will be

followed with the installation of gas pipelines and the extension of gas to these towns and regions on the gas extension route, to start on 1372 [starting March 1993].

Major Road Links Tehran to South

LD0303093892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1230 GMT 29 Feb 92

[Text] Construction work on sections three and four of the main road linking Na'in to Kashan and the Natanz extension road, with a total length of 116 km, has been completed.

The road was inaugurated this morning in ceremonies with the participation of the representative of the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult, Khamene'i], Kashan's Friday prayer leader, the minister of roads and transport, and a group of local officials.

The project, part of the main transit road linking Tehran to Bandar Abbas, has costed more than 4 billion rials which was provided by the Ministry of Roads and Transport.

With the construction of this main road linking Na'in to Kashan, the distance between Tehran and Bandar Abbas is shortened by 129 km.

Commentary on Economic Solution to Cultural Problems

NC2702195792 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 3 Feb 92 p 2

[A. Puya commentary: "Let Us Not Quarrel, Let Us Think"]

[Text] Every social phenomenon is rooted in a series of pretexts and factors and requires intensive study. A realistic approach to a phenomenon opens the way for decision making, planning, and a principled, logical, and wise performance. The years following the Revolution teach us a valuable lesson, which is if a superficial or nonserious approach is adopted, or issues are treated with anger, altercations, and confusion—especially in the cultural sphere—we cannot attain success and progress.

Recently slogans have appeared on the walls of Tehran which denounce the use of videos in very foul language. The writers of this graffiti should be aware that thought and culture are like seeds which immediately take root, and it is impossible to combat the use of videos with such reactive measures.

Suppose we were to use the most drastic punishment for those who are selling and viewing such videos, execution, and we term them corrupt on earth. Do you think the problem will be resolved? Have not the foreign radio stations, with their vulgar music and songs by foreign singers and Iranians who fled the country, infiltrated the cities and the most remote villages? Are not the Western television networks on their way here? Today we can stop the distribution of videos. What do we do with the millions of televisions tomorrow?

Second, have we forgotten that these same people with their faith, love of Islam, and independence rose up with

their acumen and awareness and brought about the greatest upheaval of the twentieth century? Why is it that now, instead of having faith in them and their judgment, understanding, and perception, we want to tell them what to do, like little children bereft of all awareness and discernment?

Let us believe in our wonderful people and realize that the mothers and fathers of our society—except for a small minority—are far more concerned than we that their children receive correct training and develop healthy beliefs. Without any quarreling and anger we should search for the roots of the problem.

We live in a society in which the number of newspapers and books in circulation is not proportionate to the population and the scale of its growth, and the current newspapers do not indulge in cultural activities. In view of the pittance they get for writing, they mainly content themselves with what is received from Western news agencies, which they publish with a few minor changes or translations, and adding a few advertisements.

In our country there is no comparison between the number of merchants and the researchers, writers, and similar people who can effectively produce writings. Similarly, there is no comparison between the level of their incomes.

Suppose we were to compare the income of a teacher or professor with an individual who has a real estate agency and a car. At times the monthly income of the latter is more than a thousand times that of a teacher. Of course in a society where due credit is not given to certain services and jobs, and there is no effort to maintain any proportion in incomes, we should not expect anything else.

Compare the facilities that businessmen have with the facilities that an individual involved in cultural pursuits, such as building a theater house or distributing newspapers has. There is no option for those engaged in cultural professions but to live in utter poverty and to suffer hardships. If it were not for love of the homeland and its cultural heritage this sector would have been totally decimated.

The result is that the youth, with their numerous needs, do not receive appropriate cultural nurturing and are not able to get much-needed books. Students are not even able to procure their necessary texts because they are too expensive and limited in numbers.

Due to various shortages, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran is also unable to fulfill the needs of teenagers and youth, to present serials and programs which are educational and full of variety. This is due to a lack of telecast time and a lack of personnel relative to the needs and scale of the necessary programs.

There are far fewer theaters now than before the Revolution, but the population has doubled since then. The sports facilities are only 1 percent of what is needed for the various kinds of sports and there are no centers for wholesome entertainment. Even if all our youth are geniuses, only 10 percent of applicants gain enrollment in universities. It is then difficult to gain employment and if

we assume that an administrative job is obtained, 30 percent of the salary goes toward housing. The very prospect of marriage has become a horror in the minds of the youth of the middle and lower strata of society.

The above conditions open the door for deviationist tendencies. Turning toward vulgar videos, drugs, smoking, and so on can openly be declared as real results of a situation in which 80 percent of the income is monopolized by 20 percent of the people.

A young man who has spent the best years of his life under the threat of the enemy's mortar shells is left with a stack of economic problems and is constantly grappling with mental stress. The more affluent youth, because of the

illicit income of his father during the first few years of the war, goes abroad before reaching adulthood so that the dust of the battlefield does not blemish his auspicious visage. He returns triumphantly after a few years of prodigal living so that he can flaunt his newly-earned certificates before everyone. Like his esteemed father he can gain the position of chief and seat himself in a Mercedes and drive it around ostentatiously.

Our brother who wrote slogans against videos on the walls should know that such a reactive approach is not the solution and the first step toward rectifying the cultural trend in society is the creation of economic equilibrium.

Armed Forces Engineering To Help Reconstruction

*LD0503112792 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Mar 92*

[Excerpt] For the purpose of reconstruction and renovation of the war-stricken areas in the west and south of the country, a great part of the potential of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army has been allocated for reconstruction of the country with agreements worth billions of rials.

Making this announcement during an interview with correspondents, the Commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army pointed out: According to agreements reached and planning already undertaken, a part of the tremendous technical-engineering resources of the Army will be used to help in economic and reconstruction plans for the war-stricken areas. [passage omitted giving examples of work undertaken by the army]

Nuclear Engineering Course Inaugurated

*LD2302170392 Tehran IRNA in English 1448 GMT
23 Feb 92*

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 23, IRNA—Vice-President and the head of the Atomic Energy Organisation, Reza Amrollahi, inaugurated the masters course in nuclear engineering here today.

The start of the masters course coincided with the opening of the first nuclear engineering training centre equipped with audio-visual facilities.

Initially 30 students holding bachelor degrees in related field will be admitted to the masters course.

Some 40 nuclear engineering experts from Iran and abroad would help instruct the Iranian students.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently cleared Iran's nuclear programme for peaceful utilisation of this vital energy and indicated its cooperation to help complete the semi-finished Bushehr nuclear plant.

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